

JACOB FAITHFUL.

The Old Man on Story-telling, and Fussy People, and Stock Gambling, and Men and things in General.

Curious how difficult it is to make things short. I might have learned as much by this time. But I have not. Just listen to speeches sometimes. They are as dreary as the desert and lengthy as a line of longitude. Then there is often nothing in them and when there is it might have been said to better purpose in five minutes. What shall be said of sermons or prayers, or what not? To be effective they must be short. And yet not too short. I have heard prayers and sermons as cold as a last summer's nest and as pointless as the base of the Rocky Mountains, and yet they have been as short as short could be. Shortness is much, but it is not everything. When one has really something to say you can stand him a good while, but oh, the weariness to the flesh when he has nothing, when at best it is but decent chaff, well meant for gram. Oh, yes! And what a mercy it is when a man stops as soon as his ideas run out! Often, however, it is only then he sparsely "spreads." Very few people can preach effectively for more than half an hour, and a good man used to say that when he had most to do at the Throne of Grace he always did it in the shortest time.

And what shall be said of story-telling? Isn't it sometimes perfectly awful? How minute the details! What wide sweep of collaterals and irrelevancies. "It was Tuesday," "No it wasn't Tuesday; it was Wednesday, for I remember," and so on. A sure sign of ailing faculties. Poor fellows! Can they help it? Perhaps not. If so, so much the worse for them. To be caught by one of these afflictive ones is dreadful. Pray to be delivered from long windedness. Come to the point and don't bother in most cases with reminiscences. Most people are so much taken up with their own that

THEY DON'T CARE A DOT

for yours. As usual here I am off, just going on the same way myself, and making some of my readers no doubt say "Jacob's getting old. Its an awful time before he strikes oil." Is it? Now there you are mistaken, for I am striking oil all the time. I tell you last week's letter was rather long, but though I say it, that should not, it is a fact that it hit the nail on the head every time. Who has not seen the fidgety father or mother who thinks it is a profane waste of time for a boy or girl to open a book and who is simply on tenterhooks if anybody proposes to read aloud to any one for even five minutes? Who has not seen the worried, long-suffering-like look as of a cat in the hand of a mischievous boy when some "peculiarly beautiful passage" was given at the reader's best? The jerky start every now and then, and at last the final break off before the thing was over with "Excuse me. I really have no more time!" Why should not young people read some times? And old people too? Why should it be an everlasting grind of work, work, and no rest or refuge but sleep or death? Jacob does not see. If people some times did

less they would in the long run do more.

By the way, speaking about those who are always in a fuss and a bustle might not one say a little more without preaching and without being long winded? Mr. and Mrs. Fussy are simply dreadful and the more one is bothered with them the more one is tempted to think that there is after all very little need for fuss at all. Of course there are some occasions in which something of the sort is, if not positively praiseworthy at least allowable. But even at a fire, or when the water pipes have burst and flooded the bath room there is no particular beauty or reasonableness in a person rampaging about like a fury, saying the most absurd things and giving the most contradictory orders. Is there? But even though one allow that at such extra seasons one may be excused for being put out a little, still as something chronic fuss is simply abominable. If persons would only

TRY TO BE IN TIME

what a great deal of this might be saved all round! If they would get up so as to be ready to come down when the breakfast is ready; if they would arrange to have plenty of time for starting comfortably on a journey; if they would begin what has to be done blithe and early they might save themselves and others a great deal of unnecessary discomfort. But it is always the last moment with these people and then in their furious foolish drive they get as snappish, nervous and distraught as if they were ready for a lunatic asylum. "Don't speak to me! Don't you see I'm in a hurry?" And so it goes on, and one miserable wretch who fusses very frequently puts out a whole company. But I won't say a single word more on the subject, though a good deal more needs to be.

I wanted to speak of the stock flurry in New York and lots of other things, and lo and behold my space is up. I am glad that these fellows have gone up—sharpers and cutpurses under forms of law as they are. The misery is apparently that they can't go down without dragging along with them more or fewer of decent people. It seems in vain to hope that any cure will ever be had for gambling. It is so comfortable, according to general ideas, to have money without working for it. That all risks will be ruin. It is a great mistake however all the same. *It is the earned money that gives most satisfaction, and what earning is there in shuffling some pieces of paper?* If all the stock jobbers and share gamblers were down the sea would the world be any the better? Perhaps not, for another race of the same would speedily spring up. It is a marvellous, considering how things are doctored, that any decent man ever touches stocks of any kind. There is more iniquity perpetrated in a week with these than in all the horse-races of a twelvemonth.

So the Semi-Centennial is going to be a great success? So be it. When it is to be, far better from every point of view that

IT SHOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

Flags medals, speeches, processions and all the other etceteras will be the order of the day. Who will be chief orator?

And where is to be the new City Hall and Court House? Some say Lombard street. Some Bay. Some Yonge among the butcher stores south of Wilton Avenue. I go for the last, though I don't feel very pronounced in my convictions.

What is going to be done with all these level crossings near the Bay? Can nothing be arranged for the foot of Yonge street for instance? If not, of course lives will be lost but that seems to cause little bother.

I really don't know what to say about the Horticultural Gardens. It is but a short time since a prominent official of that pleasant resort said that a dividend of 12 per cent. was being paid, and yet the next thing is a "poor mouth," and the President declaring that expenses are not cleared. How comes that? One would like to know.

So the bad smells are never to depart from the Don. Soap is to be made, pork is to be packed, whiskey is to be made, and swill is to be carried for all coming time. Perhaps it is as well. It is by these that most of the inhabitants live, and though pleasant surroundings are nice, yet those without bread are not much to make a boast of. Why not go for good drainage, improved methods of managing, and much else of the same kind?

Is the Zoo really going to be removed from Front street? If so, it will be a great mercy, for whatever it may be in the way of a show, it is an undoubted nuisance all the same.

So the bolt factory is down. Who or what is to blame for this Jacob does not know. One thing is clear that most of our manufacturers put on great style. Would it not be better for them to draw it mild till they are perfectly sure where they stand?

Jacob was not at the Bible Society meetings, though he ought to have been. There was nothing very particular about them I am told, and the interest and speeches were not great.

No more word of those who were said to be going to blow up the old Parliamentary Buildings. Will anything ever be heard of them? Likely not. Now then I am on again,—"too long, too long." Not another word.

JACOB FAITHFUL.

The-Semi Centennial.

Following is the official programme for the Semi-Centennial week, commencing June 30th. We hope all our readers will do their utmost to assist in making the week as successful as possible:—

MONDAY, JUNE 30th.—"Municipal and Historical Day." Specially commemorative of the City's municipal organization and progress. Parade to comprise: Municipal Bodies, Police, Fire Brigade, etc. York Pioneers, with superb tableaux, accompanying parade, giving a pictorial representation of prominent events in the history of the City.

In the Afternoon.—Historical Orations, at the Industrial Exhibition Grounds.

In the Evening.—Firemen's Torch-light Procession. Military Promenade Concert at the Granite Rink, at which Signor ALLESANDRO LIBERATI, the world-renowned Cornet Player, will perform. Grand Commemoration Fancy Dress Ball at the Pavilion, with Quadrille Sets in Costume, illustrative of fifty years ago, and dances then in vogue.

TUESDAY, JULY 1st.—"Military Day." Grand Street Parade and Review, comprising Visiting and City Corps to the extent of over Four Thousand men.

In the Afternoon.—The Canadian Wheelmen's Association, to the number of Five Hundred, will parade the streets, and at 3 o'clock will hold their Annual Meet, at the Rosedale Grounds, when Bicycle Contests for the Championship of Canada will take place.

In the Evening.—Grand display of Fireworks and Band Concert at the Horticultural Gardens. Military Promenade Concert at the Granite Rink, at which Signor LIBERATI will again appear.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2nd.—"Trades and Industrial Day." Specially commemorative of the past progress and present condition of the Commercial Interests of the City. Parade to comprise: (1) Members of Labor Organizations in the City, each with a Tableau illustrative of the trade followed; (2) Representatives, with illustrative Tableaux, from Railway, Telegraph, Express, and Manufacturing Companies, Boards of Trade, etc., etc., and waggons or floats, laden with goods

dealt in, artistically arranged, from each firm doing business in the City.

In the Afternoon.—Band competition at the Exhibition Grounds.

In the Evening.—At the Horticultural Pavilion, Haydn's grand Oratorio, "CREATION," by the Choral Society, assisted by Miss FANNY KELLOGG, Prima Donna Soprano and the celebrated MENDELSSOHN QUINETTE CLUB, of Boston. Band Competition continued at the Granite Rink.

THURSDAY, JULY 3rd.—"U. E. Loyalists' Day." Commemorative of the settlement of the U. E. Loyalists in Canada, 100 years ago. In the morning a public meeting will be held, to be addressed by prominent men.

In the Afternoon.—Reception at Government House by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Grand Lacrosse Match on the Rosedale Grounds, at which Foot and Bicycle Races will be held, in which it is expected a number of the leading athletes of America will compete.

In the Evening.—At the Pavilion, Gounod's Sublime Oratorio, "REDEMPTION," by the Philharmonic Society, in which Miss FANNY KELLOGG and the MENDELSSOHN QUINETTE CLUB will also assist. Completion of the Band Competition at the Granite Rink. To allow visitors an opportunity of attending the Concerts, the Grand Harbor Parade will not begin until 10:15 o'clock, and will continue until midnight. All the steamers, tugs, and row boats—hundreds in number—will form in line and move around the Bay; they will be illuminated by Chinese lanterns, etc., and all along the line a continuous shower of rockets and Roman candles will be discharged. Forts will be erected on the Bay, and for over an hour a mimic Naval Combat will be waged, closing with the most magnificent display of fiery grandeur ever witnessed in Canada.

FRIDAY, JULY 4th.—"The Benevolent Societies' Day." The Parade to comprise: Uniformed and un-Uniformed Lodges of Masons, Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Malta, Foresters; National Societies, Emerald and Irish Catholic Benevolent Societies, etc., etc.

In the Afternoon.—Parade and drill of the Uniformed Encampments, when prizes will be given for best drill. Laying corner stone of Monument on site of the ancient Fort Rouille, at the Exhibition Grounds.

In the Evening.—Grand Concert at the Pavilion by the MENDELSSOHN QUINETTE CLUB, assisted by Miss FANNY KELLOGG, Prima Donna Soprano, and other celebrated artists, with popular programme. Military Promenade Concert at the Granite Rink.

SATURDAY, JULY 5th.—"Educational Day." To be specially commemorative of our Educational Institutions. Parade to comprise: Officers of Educational Departments, and Tableaux illustrative of progress made; Representatives from our Universities, Colleges, Schools, and Charitable Institutions.

In the Afternoon.—Concert at Pavilion; choruses by over Six Hundred school children. Lacrosse match and games on the Rosedale Grounds.

In the Evening.—Farewell concert at the Pavilion, introducing several specialties.

Other attractions will be added from time to time.

A correspondent sends a clipping from a former issue of TRUTH which says:—"Take a double handful of the dry pods of the common white soup bean, or corn bean to three quarts of water; boil slowly for three hours, until it is reduced to three pints. Take hot or cold. Use no other drink," as a remedy for Bright's disease of the kidney. She wants to know if the pods are to be used without the bean included. The pods only are meant. Can any one tell if the same remedy would be of service if the disease has advanced to diabetes? More than one interested would be glad to hear through these columns.