

Sydney Smith Said in His Memoirs:

"Thank God for tea! What would the world do without tea? How did it exist before tea? I am glad I was not born before tea."

He Must Have Tasted



The Archbishop's Christmas Gift.

(By Robert Barr, in Black and White.)

Aras, blacksmith and armorer, stood at the door of his hut in the valley of the Aif, a league or so from the Moselle, one summer evening. He was the most powerful man in all the Aif-land, and few could lift the iron sledge-hammer he wielded as though it were a toy. Aras had twelve sons scarce less stalwart than himself, some of whom helped him in his occupation of blacksmith and armorer, while the others till the ground near by, earning from the rich soil of the valley what sustenance the whole family needed. The blacksmith heard, coming up the valley of the Aif, the hoof-beats of a horse, and his quick, experienced ear told him, though the animal was yet afar, that one of his shoes was loose. As the hurrying rider came within the valley, the blacksmith shouted to him in stentorian tones: "Friend, pause a moment, until I fasten again the shoe on your horse's foot."

"I cannot stop," was the brief answer. "Then your animal will go lame," rejoined the blacksmith. "Better lose a horse than an empire," replied the rider, hurrying by. "Now, what does that mean?" said the blacksmith to himself as he watched the disappearing rider, while the click-click of the loosened shoe became fainter and fainter in the distance. Could the blacksmith have followed the rider into Castle Bertrich, a short distance further up the valley, he would speedily have learned the meaning of the hasty phrase the horseman had flung behind him as he rode past. Ascending the winding road that led to the gates of the castle as hurriedly as the laded condition of his beast would permit, the horseman paused, unloosed the horn from his belt, and blew a blast that echoed from the wooded hills around. Presently an officer appeared above the gateway, accompanied by two or three armed men, and demanded who the stranger was and why he asked admission. The horseman, amazed at the officer's ignorance of heraldry that caused him to blow, answered to his quality, answered with a haughty sneer.

"Messenger of the Archbishop of Treves, I demand instant audience with Count Bertrich!" The officer, without reply, disappeared from the castle walls, and presently the great leaves of the gate were thrown open, whereupon the horseman rode his tired animal into the courtyard and flung himself off. "My horse's shoe is loose," he said to the armorer immediately attend to it. "In truth," replied the officer, shrugging his shoulders, "there is more thinking than fighting in Castle Bertrich; consequently we do not possess an armorer. If you want blacksmithing done you must betake yourself to armorer Aras in the valley, who will put either horse or armor right for you."

With this the messenger was forced to be content; and, begging the attendants who took charge of his horse to remember that it had traveled far, and and still, when resting at a house journeying before it, he followed the captain into the great rittersaal of the castle, where, on entering, after having been announced, he found the Count sitting at the head of a long table, holding a gigantic wine flask, which he was industriously emptying. Extending down each side of the table were many nobles, knights and warriors, who, to judge by the hasty glance bestowed upon them by the archbishop's messenger, seemed to be energetically following the example set them by their lord of the head, Count Bertrich's hair was unkempt, his face was flushed, his eye bloodshot; and his corselet, open at the throat, showed the great bull-neck of the man, on whose gigantic frame constant dissipation seemed to have merely temporary effect.

"Well," roared the nobleman, in a voice that made the rafters ring. "What would you with, Count Bertrich?" "I bear an urgent dispatch to you from my lord the Archbishop of Treves," replied the messenger. "Then down on your knees and present it," cried the count, beating the table with his fist. "I am envoy of his Lordship of Treves," said the messenger, sternly. "You told me to kneel," shouted the count, "and now you stand in the hall of Bertrich. Kneel, therefore, to its master."

"I represent the archbishop," reiterated the messenger, "and I kneel to none but God and the emperor." Count Bertrich rose somewhat uncertainly to his feet, his whole frame trembling with anger, and volleyed forth oaths upon threats. The tall nobleman at his right hand also rose, as did many of the others who sat at the table, and, placing his hand on the arm of his furious host, said warningly: "My lord count, the man is right. It is against the feudal law that he should kneel, or that you should demand it. The Archbishop of Treves is your overlord, as well as ours, and it is not fitting that his messenger should kneel before us."

"That is truth—the feudal law," muttered others down each side of the table. The enraged count glared upon them one after another, partially subdued by their breaking away from him. The envoy stood calm and collected, awaiting the outcome of the tumult. The count, cursing the absent archbishop and his present guests with equal impartiality, sat slowly down again, and flinging his flagon at an attendant, demanded that it should be refilled. The others likewise resumed their seats; and the count cried out, but with less of truculence in his tones: "What message sent the archbishop to Castle Bertrich?"

"My lord, the Archbishop of Treves requires me to inform Count Bertrich and the assembled nobles that the Hungarians have forced passage across the Rhine, and are now about to make their way through the defiles of the Elbe into this valley, intending to march thence upon Treves, laying that ancient city in ruin and carrying havoc over the surrounding country. His lordship commands you, Count Bertrich, to rally your men about you and to hold the ladies in check in the walls of the Elbe until the archbishop comes, at the head of his army, to your relief from Treves."

"There was deep silence in the vast hall after this startling announcement. Then the count replied: [To be Continued.]

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London Township Council.

Council met May 2. All the members present. The minutes of previous meeting were read and signed. A communication from the manager of the London Street Railway Company was referred to Messrs. Clark, deputy reeve, and Talbot, county commissioner. Moved by J. McLeod and seconded by Thomas Clark that this council grant John Hurlock \$20, to assist him in making a living for himself and family, he being sick and destitute. The ayes and nays were called for. Ayes—John R. Hodgins, Joseph McLeod, Thomas Clark and Charles Neumann. Nays—Jas. H. Hodgins. Orders for the following amounts were issued: J. Shoebottom, \$64, salary, \$3 dog tax he could not collect, and \$284, percentage allowed by him on taxes paid on or before Dec. 15, 1897; C. Rowell, \$1, for repairing washout; T. J. Clatworthy, \$38.50, for a blast of lumber for repairing town hall; Wm. Pudney, \$6.05 for new stove pipes for town hall, etc.; T. J. Clatworthy, \$2.24, half cost of lumber; J. J. Clatworthy, \$3, for building wire fence; Mrs. Elliott, \$5, for cleaning out town hall; J. W. Nichol, \$1, repairing bridge; John West, \$1.50, for repairing bridge; D. Robson, \$10, for material and fixing approach to bridge; Thos. Henry, \$29.42, for 100 yds of gravel put on Oxford and Adelaide streets; Robert Clark, \$21.25, overseeing and spreading same, and \$2 for gravel put at bridge on Adelaide street, and \$2 to refund one-half; T. D. Hodgins, \$5.15 for two concrete culvers on townline north, Biddulph to refund one-half; Leslie Roberts, \$2, for filling washout; A. Hedley, \$2, for filling washout; A. Cumming, \$2, for services as sanitary inspector; J. Wyatt, \$2.50 for drawing stone and gravel and fixing washout; Z. McIlhargey, \$15, for two ewes and three lambs killed by dogs; J. Stanley, \$1, for valuing same; J. Patrick, \$3, for filling approach to bridge; R. Morrow, 50 cents, for filling washout; T. A. Langford, \$32.10, salary as assessor; W. J. Artistic, \$40.50, for tile for culverts, Biddulph to refund one-half; Hylaw 401, appointing roadmasters, fence viewers, and district inspectors and pound keepers, was read and passed. The clerk was instructed to advertise for tenders for three bridges, one opposite lot 23, and one opposite lot 21, con. 13, and one on Third street, lot 6, con. 1. Council adjourned 'till the first Monday in June. James Grant, clerk.

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Ontario's Crop Outlook.

Estimate Made by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Up to the First Week of May—Wheat Area Increased—The Prospects.

The following is the first estimate of the crops of Ontario for 1898 made by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, based on the reports of the regular correspondents of the Bureau of Industries. The returns are for the first week of May:

First Week of May. November reports were to the effect that the area of fall wheat had been increased, especially in the western part of the province, and that there would have been still more but for the delay caused to seeding by the drought of September and the early part of August. Reports from correspondents just to hand are to the effect that in most cases the crop came out in the spring in about the same condition as entered the winter. There was some mention of a little heaving, of smothering and of slight injury from frost, but these were exceptional. Little harm appears to have been done by insects, wire-worm being reported in a few cases. The first two weeks of the season have been favorable for the crop, and although rain later helped the plant it is hardly in as forward a condition as usual. The crop is being well advanced for the time of year, and the drought prevailing at the time of seeding, gives the fields a patchy and weak look in many quarters. In the west, where the western and central counties some plowing up has been done, but not to any considerable extent. The present condition of the crop, therefore, may be set down as quite up to the average, and the average condition in the first week of May as "fair." The outcome of the crop of course depends upon the weather of the next six weeks.

Clover.—The prospects for clover, as correspondents report, are very favorable. Some heaving by frost occurring chiefly in the early part of April is reported in nearly every district but not to so great an extent as to be considered serious; while, on the other hand, many reports describe clover as looking splendid, especially in the western part of the province. Reports from the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties are particularly good. Alsike did not start the winter as well as red clover. Vegetation.—Correspondents differ greatly in their opinions as to the condition of vegetation, some considering it well advanced, others as being rather backward. In most sections the clover is a fair bit for the time at the beginning of May, and early fruit trees were coming nicely into bloom. In the eastern part of the province the season has been relatively more advanced than in the west.

Live Stock.—The majority of the reports concerning live stock are of a most satisfactory character. Hogs are as a rule in fine condition, although cases of distemper occurred here and there, and a great extent as to be in good health, but looking thinner than the abundance of fodder would warrant. Lumpy jaw is not so prevalent as it was some years ago, but to a serious extent. Sheep came through the winter in capital shape, and lambs are many and strong. A few cases of distemper occurred, but some western sections, but the disease was quickly stamped out. With this exception swine are described as being in the condition of the best of the season. Horses are now coming into the market in large numbers, and the supply of fodder is plentiful, and there is an abundance of straw.

Farm Supplies.—There appears to be a surplus of hay in nearly every section of the province, and in some sections, especially in the west. Much of the crop is not of good quality, although, of course, there is a fair amount of first-class hay yet to be had. Owing to the large quantity available for sale, prices were low all winter. Reports regarding oats vary, for while many claim that there is a scarcity, others hold that there is still a good supply left. Oats were fed more freely than usual during the winter, and during the last few months a few more have been marketed, consequently there was hardly as much as usual in the hands of the farmers at the beginning of May. The advocates of temperance have been disposed of in some quarters, although farmers are occasionally spoken of as having from 50 to 100 bushels of wheat ready for a further rise in price. Store cattle are said to be scarcer than usual, but in some places equal to the demand. Complaints are made of the low price for beef, especially when offered for fat animals, and many of this class of animals are being kept for a better figure in some of the western counties, and consequently there are rather more in the hands of farmers than are desired; but in the eastern counties fat cattle are scarce.

GROGLESS SAILORS. The practice of serving a ration of grog to sailors and marines was discontinued in the United States navy some years ago, as the practice was found to be prejudicial to discipline and morals. Grog is still served, however, in all the other navies of the world. The advocates of temperance in Great Britain have been trying for years to persuade the government to put a stop to the practice, but in vain.

When a young man asks a father for his daughter's hand in marriage, if the father is a wise one, he thinks of one thing only, and that is, as the young man's morals, social and business standing and intelligence. A young man who suffers from ill-health has no right to marry until his health is restored. To do so is to commit a crime against the human race. While all diseases may not be directly inherited, the constitutional tendency to acquire them is inherited. If a man is a consumptive, the chances are that his children will have weak, underdeveloped lungs, and a predisposition to acquire the same disease.

The young man who suffers from bronchitis, weak lungs, spitting of blood or any disease of the air-passages which, if neglected leads up to consumption, may take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery with almost absolute assurance of recovery. It cures 98 per cent of all cases when taken in time. It soothes and heals the delicate and sensitive tissues of the air-passages and lungs, checks the cough, facilitates expectoration, drives out all impurities and disease germs from the tainted blood and builds new and healthy tissues.

Mr. John G. Bora, of 422 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa., writes: "Some thirty months ago I said to my wife, 'I don't want to keep anything from you. I must tell you I am in the last stage of consumption.' In December I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I could then only speak in whispers. I have taken thirteen bottles, and can say with truth I hear him speak. I can laugh, and my voice has not been as good in eight years. My stomach was never in better condition. Formerly I could not eat without suffering very much immediately after, but now I can eat anything."

Brakeman Albert Scott, of Windsor, who was run over on the L. E. and D. R. R., had a second amputation performed on his leg Tuesday night, mortification having set in after the first operation.

A tobacco manufacturing company is being formed in Chatham, and the city council has passed a by-law providing for a fixed tax of \$200 a year for ten years, no matter how much the tax.

William McGregor, M. P. of Windsor, has written to Col. Guillot, of the Twenty-first Fusiliers, 20th Ottawa, stating that the government desires to have the drill shed and armory constructed at Windsor as soon as possible. The government wants to know if the city is going to provide a site, and then an expenditure of \$7,000 will be taken on account.

Thackeray vs. township of Raleigh.—Judgment on appeal by defendants from judgment of drainage referee, awarding plaintiffs \$100 damages for land taken, and declaring him entitled to have a bridge erected by the township across the drain, which runs through his farm. The drain in question is the Raleigh Plains drain. Appeal dismissed with costs.

Adam Beaker, living a couple of miles west of Fergus, has a duck that occasionally lays a most peculiar egg. The other morning on going to the nest he found an egg 5 1/2 inches long. On breaking it open he found another egg inside, possessed of a hard shell, and which measured 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches. On breaking the shell of this second egg, yet another egg was disclosed to view, and of about the ordinary size.

While two Hamilton constables were hunting through Ainslie woods, near that city, for cock-fighters, they captured Dave Irvine, a notorious burglar and safe-cracker. Irvine was lying on the ground asleep, with a loaded revolver by his side. Irvine was wanted on the charge of breaking into the G. T. R. station at Brantford, and was charged with also for housebreaking and carrying explosives. He was taken to Guelph.

In Ward vs. Wilbur, judgment on appeal by defendants Freeman, Green and Isabel Green, Margaret Wilbur and Palmer R. Wilbur, from judgment of Robertson, J., who tried the action without a jury at St. Thomas in favor of plaintiff. The action was brought to reform and enforce an agreement made in August, 1891, for the partition and purchase of 100 acres of land in the township of Howard, and to rectify the deeds executed by and between the parties, and for the delivery of a lien. The appeal was dismissed with costs, but the judgment varied by striking out the portion decreeing rectification.

Men and medicines are judged by what they do. The great cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla give it a good name everywhere.

It is said that woman, owing to the peculiar construction of her form, is unable to jump—except at an offer of marriage.

The Girl and the Pimple. Newspapers last year contained the account of a girl who committed suicide, because she had a pimple on her forehead. The girl was named Mary, and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised her to try Dr. Thomson's Electric Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me. I certainly believe it saved my life. It was with reluctance that I consented to a trial, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any other remedies to do me good."

LIFE SAVED.—Mr. James Bryson, a miner, writes: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Thomson's Electric Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me. I certainly believe it saved my life. It was with reluctance that I consented to a trial, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any other remedies to do me good."

Our treatment is so sure to develop shrunken parts, to give bodily strength, to remove impediments to marriage, to stop unnatural losses, to restore to weak men the feelings and buoyancy of youth, that we gladly offer a

Free Trial for Ten Days

We will send our medicines and appliances free to any honest man who may try them ten days. If he is pleased with the result, he is to keep and pay for them. If he is dissatisfied, he is simply to return the appliances and medicine to us, and that ends the transaction, without any expense whatever. There is no C.O.D. fraud, no deception.

If you want to know what our treatment consists of before trying it, send at once for our famous free book, "Complete Manual." Sent sealed in plain envelope. Cut out this advertisement or mention this paper when writing.

ERIE MEDICAL CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

We pay duty and send all packages from Canadian side.

The Big Store. WOODS' FAIR The Big Store

Saturday and Monday . . . BARGAIN DAYS

These words need no explanation. The crowds that visit the BIG STORE prove that they not only know the meaning of our Bargain Days, but fully appreciate them. This Saturday and Monday will be no exception. There are a few specials which we will sell only DURING CERTAIN HOURS. From 10 to 11 Saturday and Monday mornings, from 2 to 4 Saturday and Monday afternoons, and from 8 to 9 Saturday night we will sell the following:

Egg Soap

Dr. Raub's Egg-White Soap—Whites of eggs and sweet cream. The grandest soap in the world for skin and complexion. During the special hours Saturday and Monday we will sell three cakes for 25c, and with every three cakes will give a handsome picture, 12x19. The picture alone is worth 25c, but the manufacturer has provided three to help introduce the soap. We will also give to every customer a SAMPLE CAKE FREE.

Soap

Pure Witch Hazel and Buttermilk Soap—Three wrapped cakes in a fancy box. Special Hour Sale, Saturday and Monday, only 3c box. REMEMBER, these prices are during the above-mentioned hours only.

Laundry Soap

Best Laundry Soap, full three-pound bar, double wrapped. Special Hour Sale, 3 bars, 25c. Two and a half-pound bars Laundry Soap, 4 bars for 25c.

Blouses

Boys' Blouses, fine material, fast colors, in stripes, dots, etc., light and dark; large sailor collar; regular price, 50c, and 60c. Hour Bargain Price, your choice for 35c.

Blouse Waists

Ladies' Blouse Waists, fancy designs, all sizes, fast colors, about thirty designs; regular price from 50c to 60c; your choice for only 35c.

Special

Big reduction in all the pretty and substantial Madras and Scotch Ginghams, Flannel Muslins, Open Work Effects, etc.

ALL DAY SATURDAY AND MONDAY . . . WALL PAPER.

Saturday and Monday we intend shall be red letter days in this department. GLIMMER and GILT PAPERS will be sold at the price of the very cheap papers. Nothing the matter with it—all perfectly good and new style Paper—but we mean to have you visit the first floor Saturday and Monday, where there will be more than Wall Paper to interest you.

Small Lots

Enough for one, two, and in some cases three rooms: 15c and 10c papers for . . . 8c 20c papers for . . . 12c 25c papers for . . . 15c Borders to match all of these at equally low prices.

Curtain Poles

About 50 Curtain Poles, only a few of a kind; regular price 40c, 50c and 60c, the lot to be closed out Saturday and Monday for 25c each. All complete with fancy ends, brackets and rings, both brass and wood.

Window Shades

Big sale in this department Saturday and Monday.

Baby Carriages

One-half of our first lot is occupied with Baby Carriages. The finest line of Baby Carriages shown in London. Every design, pattern and material the best. Just to arouse your interest, on Saturday and Monday we will sell a six-sized carriage, handsome red body, sixteenth century finish, upholstered in silk plush, China silk parasol, eaten lined, deep silk founce, best bicycle wheels and running gear wheel brake; regular price, \$11.50, for only \$6.50.

Turkish Rugs

This is a little out of our line, but as an accommodation we took the few, and will close them out on Saturday and Monday at just half-price. These rugs are of beautiful designs and material; regular price, \$4.50; closing out price, \$2.25.

Children's Wear

White Wash Hats, fine muslin, double lace edge, full rim embroidery, Tam crown; regular 75c, sale price 35c. Fine Embroidery, Full-Rim. Muslin, Tam Crown, 50c, reduced to only 25c.

MUSIC—COME AND HEAR THE MUSIC SATURDAY AND MONDAY. ALL THE NEWEST SHEET MUSIC, ONLY 5c EACH.

dusty may grow in that time. The company must employ not less than 25 hands for at least six months in the year.

The Stratford Presbytery has sustained the call of the Tavistock congregation to Rev. H. McCulloch, a recent graduate of Knox College, and he has been given two weeks to consider its acceptance.

Members of the congregation of the Chapel of Ascension, Windsor, have subscribed \$250 toward the salary of a curate for the chapel. This, with the amount granted by All Saints' Church, will insure the congregation a clergyman.

R. Williams, the second son of Mr. Williams, Tilsenburgh, conductor on the B. and T. road, sustained a painful injury while coupling cars at the station. By some means he got his fingers between the drawheads, and had them badly mangled.

The Presbyterian Church of Culloden appointed representatives to attend the special meeting of the Paris Presbytery, to be held in Knox Church, Windsor, next Monday, to deal with the call to Rev. J. Cranston, from Rockwood. Representatives of the Guelph Presbytery will be present to prosecute the call.

There is a strike in progress among the girls in Mr. A. Burritt's knitting factory, Mitchell. They all left in a body on Monday. The consequence of a cut in wages made in the fall. It is said that Mr. Burritt promised to raise the price again, but so far he has failed to do so. His factory is closed, and about 35 girls are now idle.

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Thackeray vs. township of Raleigh.—Judgment on appeal by defendants from judgment of drainage referee, awarding plaintiffs \$100 damages for land taken, and declaring him entitled to have a bridge erected by the township across the drain, which runs through his farm. The drain in question is the Raleigh Plains drain. Appeal dismissed with costs.

Adam Beaker, living a couple of miles west of Fergus, has a duck that occasionally lays a most peculiar egg. The other morning on going to the nest he found an egg 5 1/2 inches long. On breaking it open he found another egg inside, possessed of a hard shell, and which measured 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches. On breaking the shell of this second egg, yet another egg was disclosed to view, and of about the ordinary size.

While two Hamilton constables were hunting through Ainslie woods, near that city, for cock-fighters, they captured Dave Irvine, a notorious burglar and safe-cracker. Irvine was lying on the ground asleep, with a loaded revolver by his side. Irvine was wanted on the charge of breaking into the G. T. R. station at Brantford, and was charged with also for housebreaking and carrying explosives. He was taken to Guelph.

In Ward vs. Wilbur, judgment on appeal by defendants Freeman, Green and Isabel Green, Margaret Wilbur and Palmer R. Wilbur, from judgment of Robertson, J., who tried the action without a jury at St. Thomas in favor of plaintiff. The action was brought to reform and enforce an agreement made in August, 1891, for the partition and purchase of 100 acres of land in the township of Howard, and to rectify the deeds executed by and between the parties, and for the delivery of a lien. The appeal was dismissed with costs, but the judgment varied by striking out the portion decreeing rectification.

Men and medicines are judged by what they do. The great cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla give it a good name everywhere.

It is said that woman, owing to the peculiar construction of her form, is unable to jump—except at an offer of marriage.

The Girl and the Pimple. Newspapers last year contained the account of a girl who committed suicide, because she had a pimple on her forehead. The girl was named Mary, and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised her to try Dr. Thomson's Electric Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me. I certainly believe it saved my life. It was with reluctance that I consented to a trial, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any other remedies to do me good."

LIFE SAVED.—Mr. James Bryson, a miner, writes: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Thomson's Electric Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me. I certainly believe it saved my life. It was with