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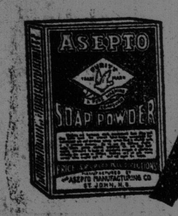

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THE WEAPONS OF MYSTERY

BY JOSEPH HOCKING.

Author of "All Men are Liars," "Fields of Fair Renown," etc., etc.

(Continued)

"'Yes,' says Woltaire, 'and see how she's treated him since.'

"'True enough,' says she, 'but it's made her no softer towards you. If she avoids him, she dislikes you.'

"'And do you think she cares about Blake?" says he.

"'I don't know,' she replies. 'She never would tell me anything, and that's why I dislike her so. But, for all that, she's no hypocrite.'

"'Well, what for that?' he asks.

"'I went to her room last night, and I began to tell her more about him and compare him with you.'

"'Well?' says he.

"'Well, she got into a temper, and told me that she would not allow Mr. Blake's name to be associated with yours in her room.'

"Then sur, that 'ere willain he swore like a trooper, and said he'd make you rue the day you were born. After that, they were silent for a little while, and then she says to him—

"'I believe she knows what you are wanting to do, and has some idea of the influence you have exerted over him. She's as sharp as a lancet, and it's difficult to deceive her.'

"'If only that Blake hadn't come,' he says, as if talkin' to hisself.

"'Yes,' she says, 'but he has come,' says she.

"'But if he can be made to leave her, and never speak to her again, will it not show to her that he's what you said he was, and thus turn her against him?'

"'I don't know. She's been cool enough to drive him away,' said that 'ere Miss Staggles.

"'But if he leaves disgraced, proved to be a villain, a deceiver, a blackleg, or worse than that, while I show up as an angel of light?'

"'I don't know,' she says. 'You are a wonderful man; you can do almost anything. You could charm even an angel.'

"'Well, you'll do your best for me, won't you?' says he.

"'You know I will,' she says; 'but we must not be seen together like this, or they will suspect something.'

"'True,' says he, 'but I want to know how things are goin' on.' Then he stopped a minit, and a thought seemed to strike him. 'Miss Staggles, my friend,' he says, 'watch her closely, and meet me here on New Year's Day, at five o'clock in the evening. It's dark then, and everybody will be indoors.'

"Then, yer honour, they went away together, and I was on the look-out for you all day yesterday."

There was much in Simon's story to think about, and for a time all was mystery to me. One thing, however, I thought was clear. He had either found he could do no good by his mesmeric influences, or else he had lost them, and so he was working up some other scheme against me. I pondered long over the words, "If he leaves disgraced, provey to be a villain, a deceiver, a blackleg, or worse than that, while I show up as an angel of light?" Surely that meant a great deal! I must be on the watch. I must be as cunning as he. I did not like eavesdropping or playing the spy and yet I felt there were times when it would be right to do so, and surely that time had come in my history. There was villainy to be unmasked, there was a true, innocent girl to be saved, while my reputation, happiness, and perhaps life were in danger. I determined I would meet stratagem with stratagem. I would hear this conference in the wood that evening. I would seek to undeceive Miss Forrest, too, whose behaviour was now explained. Accordingly, after a few more words with Simon, I wended my way back to the house again.

I found Miss Forrest still in the library, together with Tom Temple and Edith Gray. All three looked up brightly at my entrance.

"We were just talking about you, Justin," said Tom, as I joined them. "I had been telling these ladies what a terrible woman-avoider you have always been. Miss Forrest wouldn't believe me at first; but that story of your walking five miles alone, rather than ride in a carriage with some ladies, has convinced her. I thought you had improved the first day or so after you came, but you seem to have fallen back into your old ways."

"Don't put the fault on me, Tom," I said. "The fault has generally been with the ladies. The truth is, I'm not a ladies' man, and hence not liked by them. I have generally been put down as a kind of bore. I expect, and I've never taken the trouble to improve my reputation."

"Then you ought," said Miss Gray, laughingly. "It's a shame that you should be under such a ban, because if a man can't make himself pleasant to ladies what can he do?"

"Well, I should like to turn over a new leaf," I replied; "but then I don't seem to please. I've no doubt my company is very tiring, and thus I must be left out in the cold."

"Nonsense," replied Tom. Let us have another ride this afternoon, and see whether you can't make Miss Forrest a pleasant companion."

"If Miss Forrest would allow me, I should be delighted," I said.

I expected an excuse, such as a cold, a headache, or some previous engagement, especially as she had looked steadily into the fire while we had been talking. Instead of this, however, she frankly accepted my escort, and accordingly the ride was arranged.

Nothing of importance happened before we started. We had gone out quietly, and had attracted no notice, and rode away towards the ruins of an old castle which Tom thought we should like to visit.

A I started, it was a raw, cold day; but I did not feel the biting wind, or notice the weird desolation that was all around. I felt supremely happy as I rode by Miss Forrest's side.

We had gone perhaps two miles from the house, when we found ourselves separated from Tom Temple and Miss Gray, and we slackened our horses' speed to a walk.

"Have you thought my conduct strange since we last rode out together?" she said.

"I have indeed," I replied bluntly, "especially as I do not remember having done anything that should merit your evident dislike to me."

"I owe you an apology," she said. "I have been very foolish, very unjust. I am very sorry."

"But might I ask why you saw fit to change your conduct from friendliness to extreme aversion?"

"I'm almost ashamed to tell you, Mr. Blake, but I will. If there is one thing for which I have aversion and contempt, it is for flirting, coquetry, and the like. If there is any species of mankind that I despise, it is that of a flirt, a society man, a ladies' man.

"And have I ever given evidence of belonging to that class, Miss Forrest?"

"No," she replied; "and that is why I am so ashamed of myself. But I listened to some foolish gossip about your boasting of your conquests with ladies and the like. I know I ought not to have listened to it, but I did. I am very sorry; will you forgive me?"

She said this frankly, and without hesitation; yet I thought I saw a blush mount her cheek as she spoke.

"If there is anything to forgive, I do forgive you," I replied, "especially as I despise that class of individuals as much as you. The vapid, dancing society mannikin is everywhere an object of contempt while a society girl, as generally accepted, is not a whit more to my taste."

I saw she was pleased at this, and I felt I loved her more than ever. Did she, I wondered, care anything for me? Was there any vestige of interest in her heart beyond that which she felt for any passing acquaintance?

"Mr. Blake," she said, after pausing a second, "do you remember what we were talking about that day when we last rode out together?"

"We were talking of Mr. Voltaire," I said.

"Have you found out anything more about him?"

"No, I have not. Is there any mystery connected with him?"

"I think there is. I have an indistinct kind of feeling that both he and the Egyptian are deceivers, while I am sure Mr. Voltaire is—is your enemy."

"I have no doubt he is," I said.

She looked at me strangely.

"I had not been in Temple hall two hours before that man had marked me as one that he would fain be rid of."

"Indeed," she said; "then if that is the case, you should listen to my advice. Have nothing to do with him."

"But I must have something to do with him ,and with his friend the Egyptian as well."

"Don't" she said anxiously; "the two work together, and both are cunning as serpents. I believe," she continued, after a pause, "that the thought-reading and mesmerism were somehow designed to injure you. I think somehow they are acquainted with forces unknown to us, and will use them for evil."

"Yes, I believe all that," I said.

"Then why must you have any dealings with them?"

"Because they will have dealings with me; because they are plotting against me; because there are forces, over which I have no control, drawing me on."

"But why will they have dealings with you?" Why are they plotting against you?"

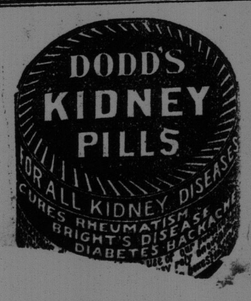
"Because Voltaire knows that I love with all my soul, the woman he wants to win for his wife."

A curious look shot across her face. What was it? Love, astonishment, pain, vexation or joy? I could not tell; but my tongue was unloosed.

"Do I annoy you, astonish you, Miss Forrest?" I said. "Forgive me if I do. I have been regarded as a woman-hater, a society-avoider. That is because I never saw a woman in whom I was sufficiently interested to court her society. I have heard it said that such characters fall in love quickly, or not at all. The first day I saw you I fell in love with you; I love you now with all my soul."

She looked at my face steadily, but did not speak a word.

(To be Continued)



Fashion Hint for Times Readers

BRAIDING IS THE WINTER'S FEATURE.

Almost any woman can braid a pattern. The work goes quickly and the hand work represented on a braided gown immediately lifts it to importance and distinction. This year's braiding invariably matches the fabric on which it is done, with the exception of black braiding on dark cloth and silk costumes and gold or silver braiding on light satins and broadcloths. This coat and skirt of hunter's green cloth are elaborately braided with soutache dyed to match. The big rings which add individuality to the pattern are made by winding pasteboard molds with embroidery silk floss.

ROBINSON AND McKEOWN TALK OF HAZEN'S "SURPLUS"

Instead of an Alleged Surplus of $44,000 There is Really a Deficit of Nearly $300,000 for the Year—True Financial Situation Hidden by "High Finance" Bookkeeping

Moncton Dec. 30.—After examining the statement of provincial finances made by the Hazen government this evening, Hon. C. W. Robinson made the following criticism:

"The Hazen government's first financial statement shows nothing remarkable, unless the exhibition of utter helplessness and inability to carry out their promises of economy can be so characterized.

"After eliminating everything that could by any plausible argument be claimed to belong to the previous year they admit an ordinary expenditure of $1,042,196.40, which is over $80,000 larger than shown in any previous year by the auditor general. It remains to be seen whether everything has been included in this amount.

"The large expenditure on roads just previous to the recent dominion elections was properly chargeable to the year ended Oct. 31 last. Without access to the books and accounts I could not positively state that a very large part of this expenditure has been held back to be charged to the year 1909, but circumstances point that way and a declaration from the provincial secretary on the subject would be interesting.

"The dominion subsidies were increased as a result of the work of the former government, by the annual amount of $130,000. The past year was the first one to receive the full benefit of that increased subsidy. Without that increase in subsidy their statement would have exhibited a deficit of about $86,000 on the year's transactions, instead of an apparent surplus of $44,000.

"Included in that alleged surplus also there is an item of $10,000 from the probate court for a fund which is an accumulation of years, since the enactment of the present probate court act. This fund was held to pay the salaries of the judges and registrars of the probate courts,and the amount does not in any way belong to the year just elapsed. No part of it was collected in that year. It was simply a transfer from the fund to the current revenue account and a fictitious swelling of the revenue by a sort of high finance method of keekkeeping.

"The chief attempt at economy appears to be in the reduction of the amount paid out for agriculture—$36,534 in 1907 to $21,987 in 1908—but, of course, the celebrated Kentucky mares were not purchased in time to swell that amount to a larger figure.

"The promise to build permanent bridges out of current revenue has so far not materialized, as will be shown by the fact that an addition to the permanent debt of $172,391 has been caused in the construction of such bridges during the year, an amount which is about $50,000 in excess of the record of 1907.

"There has been an increase in territorial revenue of about $22,000, of which a portion is accounted for by the yearly increase in revenue from hunting licenses and the balance is chiefly accounted for by stumpage collection. The particulars of this account are not given. This item has steadily increased for years past, but more especially the last three or four years. The past year's increase is not quite equal to the average of the last three years.

"I have seen it stated by members of the government that they have made a better collection of the stumpage than the previous government and they have excused the insignificance of the increase in this item by the statement that the past year was not up to the average in lumber production. A well-informed person will not accept that statement. The cut on the Restigouche last year was just about the same as the previous year; on the Miramichi the cut of the Miramichi Lumber Company was abnormally large, and a canvass of the situation carefully will not bear out the statement that there was any material reduction in output, if indeed there was not an increase.

"In view of all these facts it is about time for the president of the council,Hon. Mr. Maxwell, to more clearly define the grounds for the charge made by him in Carleton county that the province has suffered an annual loss of $200,000 in stumpage.

"Another plum which helped out the financial showing of the year was the increase of succession duties from $14,000 to $32,489. This is a very large amount, due to the fact that some large estates came in during the year and it's not likely to be repeated.

"The real expenditure of the year appears about as follows:

"Total amount ordinary expenditure per statement, $1,042,196; amount paid out of loan from Bank of Montreal, $215,781; board of works for permanent bridges, $172,591; total, $1,430,568. From this amount we should deduct the overdraft of the board of works at Oct. 31, 1907, of $78,993, leaving a total expenditure for the year of $1,351,575.

"As the revenue was $1,086,738, it is not difficult to see that the province went behind in its ordinary business to the extent of $264,837, and the apparent surplus of $44,000 vanishes into thin air.

"The increase of the debt, however, was even greater as during the year we paid in addition the following extraordinary amounts not included in the ordinary expenditure: International Railway subsidy, $25,000; N. B. Coal & Railway, repairs, etc., $28,180; wharves and grain elevators, St. John, $2,500; total, $55,680."

Hon. H. A. McKeown was interviewed last evening on the financial statement of the Hazen government and said: "If there are people who held hopes of reduction of expenditures under the new administration those hopes will be sadly shattered on reading the figures. From a hurried glance at the list of receipts and expenditures, although a detailed itemized statement is not given, it is evident that the Hazen administration has had over $100,000 more revenue than the late government. The present administration received $65,000 more than the late government by increased dominion subsidies; they received $17,000 more in succession duties; they took $10,000 out of the probate fund and put it into current revenues; they received $21,000 more in territorial revenue. These increases gave the Hazen government the largest revenue ever New Brunswick had in any one year and people might reasonably look to them to provide for the public services and not add to the public debt of the country. They declaimed against the late government, charging that the debt of the province was increased too rapidly, in fact that limit had been reached, but the statement just issued by them shows that the debt of the province was increased in the last year more than $100,000.

"Of this, $200,000 is increase along the very line on which they denounced the late government and which the people condemned. They also have funded the whole amount of what they calculated as the deficiency of the late government, $215,000, and added this to the debt,whereas when the late Hon. Mr. Blair came into power he found a debt of $321,000 and while $250,000 of this was funded, $71,000 was paid off out of current revenue by his government. Though the Hazen administration had such an enormous increase in revenue, I notice that they have not applied one dollar to this purpose.

"I may say that the territorial revenue increase of $21,000 is very disappointing. It was reasonably expected that Mr. Hazen and his colleagues would redeem their promises and show a much larger increase and it looks as if there was truth in the statements heard on the North Shore that there is gross partizanship on the part of the newly appointed surveyors in the collection of that part of the territorial revenue.

"As the books closed on Oct. 31, people all over the province who would be looking for the items of reckless expenditure made by the public works department during the first three weeks in November would be disappointed; they will not be informed and must wait until the house meets before getting the details of the amounts expended on work absolutely useless except to forward the fortunes of the Conservative party.

"Neither will it be discovered what has been or will be the cost of the horse importation which has made the agricultural department the laughing stock of the people of the province. There was absolutely no legal warrant for the spending of the money in this importation of Kentucky horses and even if the public were not too critical in that regard, it remains to be seen on inquiry, upon whose advice horses of this nature have been purchased."

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Laxative Bromo Quinine
Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days
E. W. Grove on every box. 25c

Where Savages Beat Us.

The rude. uncultured savage did not sit most of the day in a padded office chair, a carriage or car. His food was not prepared by a chef. He had to hunt for something to eat. And dinner, when he got it, was none too rich.

But the rude, uncultured savage did not suffer from indigestion, constipation, biliousness, headaches, as we civilized beings do. Exercise and the amount of fruit and fresh vegetables in his diet, kept liver, bowels and kidneys working right.

None of us want to go back to the days of wigwams and tomahawks but a lot of us certainly would like to have the digestion of the savages.

We can, by taking "Fruit-a-tives."

"Fruit-a-tives" act directly on the stomach, liver, kidneys and skin, and keep these organs in perfect condition. "Fruit-a-tives" bring back lost appetite and sound digestion to the Dyspeptic—regulate the bowels of those who suffer from Constipation—and build up the whole system. Trial size 25c. Regular size 50c., or 6 for $2.50.

HE GOT TWO YEARS FOR USING KNIFE ON HIS FRIEND

Francesco Donati Who Stabbed Benee Cardimoni at Chipman Sent to Dorchester.

Gagetown, N. B., Dec. 30.—Francesco Donati, the Italian who has been on trial here for stabbing Benee Cardimoni, a fellow workman in one of the G. T. P. shacks near Chipman in November last, was adjudged guilty and sentenced to two years in Dorchester penitentiary. The prisoner left here last evening in charge of Sheriff Williams for Dorchester via Welsford.

H. H. Pickett, representing the defence, opened his case in the morning and put the prisoner on the stand. His evidence was about the same as was given at the preliminary examination. He told of he and Cardimoni occupying a small shack together and of the row originating over the ownership of a lamp. Cardimoni had a bar of iron in his hand and the prisoner held a knife and fork. They agreed to fight with their fists and while the row was in progress they were separated by some friends from a larger shack near by. Cardimoni then left the small shack and went to the larger building and Donati securing a knife followed him. Cardimoni, on seeing him approach, tried to escape through the rear entrance of the shack but before he could get out Donati had wounded him.

Cardimoni could not swear that Donati had the knife and the other witnesses as well as the prisoner agreed fairly well in their evidence of what happened. Donati said he did not stab Cardimoni but threw the knife at him.

Owing to the evidence of Dr. Lang as to the nature of the wound in Cardimoni's back the judge concluded that it could not have been made by throwing the knife and he held that Donati must have had the knife in his hand when the wound was inflicted.

His honor laid stress on the fact that the prisoner had been threatened and was therefore justified to some extent in carrying the knife but after Cardimoni had left the small shack Donati had time to think calmly of the matter and he should not have acted as he did. He held therefore that the prisoner must be found guilty.

Mr. Pickett, in answer to his honor's question if there were any reasons why sentence should not be pronounced, said the prisoner should be allowed to go on suspended sentence or else be deported.

The judge held that he had no power under the law to allow the prisoner to go on suspended sentence nor to deport him and even if he had that under the circumstances he would not be justified in doing so.

He said he would not impose the maximum punishment but would give him the minimum penalty and he then sentenced him to two years in Dorchester penitentiary.

His honor pointed out to Donati the provisions of the law as to ticket-of-leave men and told the prisoner if he conducted himself properly he might get out in a much shorter period.

Sheriff Williams left this evening with the prisoner on his way to Dorchester.

Judge Wilson, referring to the manner in which the case had been handled, said Mr. Pickett had done everything possible in the interest of his client and had conducted his case in an able manner. Mr. Dunn, he said, had also handled the case for the crown in a satisfactory manner.

The judge will leave for his home in the morning. Mr. Pickett left for St. John last evening.

Tea acquires a flavor under the peculiar climate of Ceylon that cannot be acquired anywhere else on earth. The delicate fragrance and delightful aroma of "Salada" Tea will please you. Buy a package today from your grocer. 104

"NEWS TO ME" SAYS HON. GEO. P. GRAHAM

Minister of Railways Knows Nothing of Plan to Take I. C. R. Trains Off.

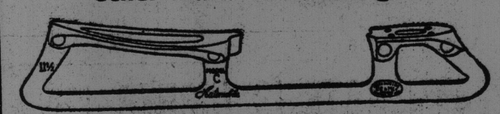
Ottawa, Dec. 30—"It is all news to me," was Hon. George P. Graham's reply when asked tonight what truth there was in the rumor that the I. C. R. would cancel the train leaving St. John at 11:25 and leaving Halifax at 9 p.m. "I can assure you," he added, "that I know nothing whatever about it."

"If there are negotiations between the deputy minister and the general manager in this direction, I have not yet been made acquainted with the fact."

Mr. Butler, the deputy minister is out of town and is not expected to return until the day after New Year's.

THE NEW SKATE

Ounces lighter than any other made—and stronger



IT'S just possible you have noticed that the skate you were wearing last season was a very antiquated proposition; that it might be made lighter and just as strong.

The "Automobile" Skate fulfils this idea. It's as far ahead of the present day skate as an automobile is ahead of the old-time buggy.

Lighter by many ounces than any other made—and stronger.

It has an aluminum alloy top—the metals just mixed to a point where they combine to make a material as strong as steel and five times as light. The "Automobile" Skate has also a thin blade of nickel steel—the toughest, strongest tempered metal on the market.

The Argument

FIGURE it out this way: Every slide of a skate takes you forward something over four feet while the other skate is lifted and held above the ice. Suppose a person goes ten miles around a rink—which distance is easily covered by most anyone skating to music—he has covered 52,800 feet and lifted either one skate or the other 13,200 times. We say that the "Automobile" Skate is, at the lowest figure, six ounces lighter than any other made. Figuring that out, we find that he has actually lifted 4,888 pounds less than he would were he using any other skates.

If your dealer doesn't handle them write us—we will forward catalogue.

CANADA CYCLE AND MOTOR CO., LTD.
TORONTO

SELF MADE MILLIONAIRE WHO BELIEVES THAT HIS CHILDREN SHOULD WORK

Louis Lombard Had to Work Himself and He Believes His Offspring Should Know How to Support Themselves if Necessary—He Landed in America Penniless and is Now Worth $50,000,000.

(New York World.)

This is the story of a real, live, uninsulated human wire. That's how Louis Lombard, who arrived here from Cherbourg on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse this week, is described by his friends. One of the newspaper notices of his arrival referred to him as "Count Lombard." Another spoke of him as "Count Lombardi."

"Cut that out, forget it, eliminate it," said Mr. Lombard when a World reporter addressed him as Count.

"Are you Count Lombard?" inquired the reporter.

"No!" answered the jovial Lombard, laughing, "I am not a count."

Mr. Lombard has a luxurious suite of apartments at the Waldorf-Astoria. With him is his wife, who was the daughter of "Tom" Allen, who built the Missouri Pacific Railway and then sold it to Jay Gould. Also with him in the suite are eight young Lombards. They came from various portions of the world to join their father and mother in a Christmas feast. One of them, Russell, an athletic boy of nineteen, came from his work bench in the plant of the Allis-Chalmers Company in Cincinnati. He is working there as a mechanic. He speaks seven languages—Italian, French, Spanish, German, English, Japanese and Chinese. He reads and writes all of them. He cannot handle the Oriental tongues fluently, but he is getting on with them and likes his linguistic studies.

Judith Lombard, aged thirteen, speaks five languages. Loma, fifteen, also speaks five; Bradford, seventeen, speaks seven, including Chinese and Japanese. The younger children are studying languages also. Their parents insist that they not only learn strange tongues, but learn how to work with their hands as well as with their brains.

Louis Lombard, the father of this interesting group, speaks nine languages himself. He owns the Chateau de Trevano, at Lugano, in Switzerland. He is the leading stockholder in the Italo-Argentine Society of Buenos Ayres, which controls the leading opera houses of South America. He owns the Costanzi Opera House in Rome. The syndicate of which he is the leading spirit, the Societa Teatrale, has the following theatres on its list: The Adriana, the Argentina and the Costanzi, of Rome; the Carlo Felice, of Genoa; the Opera, in Bari; the Opera, in Parma, and the Regio, in Turin. In Argentina, Urugay, Brazil, Chili and Peru this organization controls the fourteen leading opera houses.

Mr. Lombard likes music. He has a private opera-house in his palace in Switzerland. He has an orchestra that he maintains there the year round, that he conducts himself and with which he entertains the friends who call to see him. He is the owner of zinc, iron and lead mines in this country and in other countries. He is the owner of vast quantities of railway stock.

He is interested in so many projects all over the world that he himself admits it would be hard for him to enumerate them without consulting his records. A recent writer in the Swiss Summer Gazette credits him with a fortune of $100,000,000. It is safe to say that he is worth more than half of that in his own right, not taking into consideration the millions that his wife brought to him.

He is not yet fifty. He is a native of France and speaks with a slight French accent. But he is a naturalized citizen of the United States, and is as proud of his adopted country as a man could be.

"What is your present business, Mr. Lombard?" asked The World reporter.

"My present business—ah—well—let's see. My present business is to make good, useful American citizens of my children. Yes, that is it. Can a man have a better business? No! Never That is the best business on earth. My children—all of them who are old enough—are being educated in America. This is the only country to educate children in. There is something in the atmosphere here, something that is indefinable, but nevertheless potent and necessary, that makes this true. In Europe they are too slow. They drag They cling to custom and to tradition. They are not quick to opportpnity, to advancement, to progress. I am an American, and I am glad of it.

"I know Europe and I know America, and I train my children here. That is a testimonial, is it not? I want to make good American citizens of my children. They will not be spoiled by wealth and I want them to cultivate the habit of work. The curse of boys and of girls is idleness. The habit of idleness is the worst of all habits. I do not mean that men should

(Continued on page 7.)

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture

"We'll come again another year."
Find Jack Frost.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.

Right side down in right hand.