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Vol. II. SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1871 No. 31

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA HALIFAX

BUSINESS CARDS.

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FINE BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS,
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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
OFFICE LATELY OCCUPIED BY DR. ROBERTS,
Dorchester, N. B.
may19

Literature.

A Dog that Plays Euchre.

On Saturday evening, June 17, a listless party were sitting in the main cabin of the Providence steamer Metis. A disagreeable northeaster made it unpleasant to remain on deck. A middle-aged, keen-eyed, sandy-haired man was the most restless individual in the cabin. He appeared to be somewhat annoyed by the walking backwards and forwards of a dark-haired, fine-looking young man, whose every step was followed and movements watched by a large-sized Spanish poodle that slightly limped with his left fore leg. The sandy-haired man finally accosted the man with the dog:

"I say, stranger, its very dull here; can't we get up a game of euchre?"

"I don't care much about playing, sir; but my dog here plays a tolerable fair game. Perhaps he'll try a hand with you."

"No jokes, if you please; I am an old euchre player, and very fond of the game. I once played three nights in succession with Gen. Hillyor, and beat him two games to his one," said the sandy-haired man, rather sternly.

"I am not joking, sir; I tell you honestly that my dog can play a good game of euchre. "I'll warm him up a little and show you what he can do before you play with him."

By this time the conversation had attracted the attention of the other passengers, and they had gathered around the dog and men.

"Now, gentlemen, please to step back so as to form a good-sized ring, and we'll show you some specimens of canine sagacity that may astonish you," said the owner of the dog.

As soon as the ring had been made the dog man shouted:

"Come, Sport, give us a walk around on your ear."

Sport immediately raised himself on his fore leg and walked around the circle with his head close to the carpet, his lame leg giving him the appearance of sliding on his ear.

The man next took a ten-cent stamp, rolled it up into a little newspaper ball, made a dozen other balls of the same size and appearance, mixed them up and threw them on the carpet.

"Now, Sport, pick up the one with the stamp in it."

Sport immediately walked round the paper wads, looked at them eagerly and pulled out the one with the stamp.

Sport's master now pulled a pack of cards about the size of ordinary playing cards from his pocket. Each card had a black letter printed on it. The cards were placed around in a circle with the letter uppermost.

"Sport, tell these ladies and gentlemen where you came from this evening."

Sport walked round the cards until he came to the letter P; this he took in his mouth and laid one side and took the letter R and placed beside it, and so on until he had spelled Providence.

"Sport, old fellow, where are you bound for?"

"Sport, spelled out New York in the same manner.

The letter cards were not now taken and a pack of playing cards card laid in their place.

"Well, Sport, what do you say to playing a game of euchre with this gentleman?" inquired his master.

Sport didn't appear to be very eager, but hung his head a little, as if tired.

"Oh, there is plenty of time; you never retire until nine you know. Just look at my watch."

Sport jumped to his master's knees and looked at the watch, which was held before his eyes.

"Now Sport, tell us the right time to a minute."

Sport walked round the cards again and took a nine-spot in his mouth, which he laid on one side of the ring. Then he picked up a seven-spot and laid it a short distance from the nine-spot. He followed this up by placing a tray and ten-spot by the side of the seven. The man then showed his watch to the Spectators. It wanted just twenty minutes of nine.

"Before you commence the game, Sport, I want to see whether your head is clear. Supposing you were playing a game of sold sledge with Boss Tweed for a charter of a railroad against a million dollars, and the game stood six to six, and it was your deal, what card would you like to turn up?"

Sport walked around the ring and turned up the jack of spades.

"Right, old Sport, your head is level," said his master, patting the dog fondly.

Then turning to Gen. Hillyer's friend he said:

"In playing with Sport it will be necessary for you to deal his cards face up. This will give you an advantage. In order to make the game even deal Sport ten cards. As soon as the trump is made he will pick out five and throw the rest aside. When Sport passes he will turn one of his cards over. When he orders you up he will nod his head."

Gen. Hillyer's friend agreed to the arrangement, shuffled the cards, dealt Sport ten cards and five to himself turning up the nine of diamonds. Sport passed, and Gen. Hillyer's friend took it up. Sport then selected the queen of diamonds, ten of diamonds eight of diamonds, and ace and king of hearts. Sport led with the ace; Gen. Hillyer's friend followed suit, and lost the trick. Sport then laid down the queen; Gen. Hillyer's friend took it with the left bower. The right bower was then slung at Sport; he laid the eight-spot on it. Taking up the trick, Gen. Hillyer's friend laid down the nine-spot, Sport taking it with the ten. The dog then showed the king of hearts at Hillyer's friends, who had to hand over the queen of clubs, with the exclamation:

"Euchred, as sure as fate, by a poodle!"

Two more hands were then played. Sport winning the game.

"Now," said the owner of the dog, "lie down and rest, Sport; you have done nobly."

The dog lay down with outstretched and stiffened as if he were dead. His master pulled first one leg and then another, then pushed and shoved him about, but he gave no signs of life. Suddenly he sung out.

"Sport, you rascal, you have been gambling; here comes the police!"

Sport was off like a shot for the forward end of the cabin.

A SUN man who witnessed these wonderful tricks could detect no signals between the dog and his master. Sport appeared to do everything from the working of his own brains. His master's name is R. M. Dodd. He stated to the SUN man that he was a drug clerk in Williamsburgh, and had spent three years in educating Sport. Sport is seven years of age.

ON DRAINING.

UNDER-DRAINING DEEPENS THE SOIL.

Every farmer knows that a deep soil is better than a shallow one, because it furnishes a more extensive feeding ground for the roots of plants. By striking down deeply, the roots hold the plants firmly in the ground so that they cannot be drawn out by winds or thrown out by the frost in winter and spring, during which it is so liable to be killed. By the admission of air, and the decay of roots, it renders the condition of the subsoil such that it may be brought up and mixed with the surface soil without injuring its quality.

Under-draining hastens the decomposition of roots and other organic matters in the soil, by admitting increased quantities of air to supply oxygen, which is as essential in decay as it is in combustion.

It also accelerates the disintegration of mineral matters in the soil by admitting water and oxygen to keep up the process.

Disintegration is necessary to fertility because the roots of plants can feed on matters only dissolved from surfaces, and the more finely we pulverize the soil, the more surface we expose.

Under-draining causes a more even distribution of nutritious matters among those parts of the soil traversed by roots, because it increases the facility with which water circulates through it, descending by its own weight, moving sideways to find its level, or carried upward by capillary attraction to supply the evaporation at the surface. By this continued action of water, the soluble matters of one part of the soil may be carried to some destitute part and even distribution constantly maintained.

Under-draining prevents land from becoming hard, baking, or cracking. This is accomplished by the constant admission of air, which contains oxygen; thus keeping up decomposition and disintegration, and by moisture and heat.

The advantages of under-draining may be summed up as follows:

It improves the mechanical texture of the soil for the germination of the seed and growth of the plant.

It hastens the decomposition of roots and other organic matter.

It accelerates the disintegration of the mineral matters in the soil.

It furnishes an increased supply of atmospheric fertilizers.

It entirely prevents drought.

It deepens the soil by removing an excess of water and infusing it with the fertilizing substances of the atmosphere.

It warms the lower portions of the soil.

It causes a more even distribution of nutritious substances among those parts of the soil occupied by roots.

It renders soil earlier in the spring thereby lengthening the season two or three weeks and guaranteeing the maturity of the crop.

It effectually prevents the throwing out of the roots of grain and other plants in winter.

It enables the farmer to work his land sooner after rains.

It prevents the evaporation of water in great measure and the consequent abstraction of heat from the soil.

It enables the earth to drink up all the rain that falls, and all the dew deposited by the air, to receive all their fertilizing gasses and appropriate them to the uses of plants.

It prevents the soil from baking or cracking and renders it easy to work.

It saves fifty per cent. of the manures required by undrained land.

WILL DRAINING PAY?

In England, where the science of draining is best understood and its utility the most thoroughly demonstrated, many farmers give it as their experience that under-drains pay for themselves every three years, or that they produce a perpetual profit of thirty-three and a half per cent. on their original cost. This is the opinion of practical men (not theorists) who know from experience that under-drains are beneficial.

Perhaps the most satisfactory evidence of the utility of under-draining is the position which the English Government has taken in regard to it, and which affords much protection to the agricultural interests of her people.

A very large sum has been appropriated from the public treasury "as a fund for loans" on under-drains, which is lent to farmers for the purpose of under-draining their estates, the only security given being the enhanced value of the soil. The interest on these loans is five per cent, and the time allowed for payment is twenty years. By reason of such governmental aid the wealth of the kingdom has been rapidly increased, while the farmers themselves have raised their farms to a higher state of fertility without immediate investment. Private capitalists in England are following the example of the Government and are fast employing their money in the same manner, and under-drains are considered a very safe basis for loans.

And here we wond suggest to Agricultural Societies, County and Township Councils, or some of our monied institutions throughout Canada, whether in so doing they would not be engaged in a legitimate and laudable work, by establishing funds from which to supply parties who have not the means to spare, who contemplated draining their lands, with money at a reasonable rate of interest for that purpose, the work to be performed under some systematic regulations approved by a practical engineer, taking a lien upon the land to be improved for the repayment of the principal and interest extended over a term of years.

To be continued.

Would You?

Would you keep your rosy complexion, wear thick-soled shoes.

Would you enjoy quiet content, do away with airs and pretense.

Would you have others respect your opinions, respect and never disown them yourself.

Would you marry and be happy, to an ounce of love add at least a grain of good sense and [illegible] choosing a companion [illegible]

Would you have [illegible] out in the sunshine [illegible] worse than freckles [illegible]

Would you resp[illegible] your heart and body clean.

Would you retain the love of a friend, do not be selfishly exacting.

Would you gain the confidence of business men, do not try to support the style of your employer on a small salary.

Would [illegible] never dread to look any one [illegible] in the face, pay your debts.

Would [illegible] be told a lie, do not ask pers[illegible]tions.

Would you sl[illegible]ell and have a good appetite, [illegible] your own business.

Would [illegible] command the respect of men, [illegible]mit yourself to indulge in vulgar jokes or conversation.
—*Pomeroy's Democrat.*

The following is on old literary puzzle in a new form: A chinaman died, leaving his property by will to his three sons, as follows:—"To Fum-Hum, the eldest, one-half thereof: to Num-Pin, his second son, one-third thereof; and to Ding-Bat, his youngest, one-ninth thereof." When the property was inventoried, it was found to consist of nothing more or less than seventeen elephants, and it puzzled these three heirs how to divide the property according to the terms of the will without chopping up the seventeen elephants, and therby seriously impairing their value. Finally, they applied to a wise neighbor, Sum-Punk, for advice. Sum-Punk had an elephant of his own. He drove it into the yard with the seventeen and said: "Now, we will suppose that your father left these eighteen elephants. Fum-Hum, take your half and depart." So Fum-Hum took nine elephants and went his way. "Now, Num-Pin," said the wise man, "take your third and get," So Num-Pim took six elephants and travelled. "Now Ding-Bat," said the wise man "take your ninth and begone." so Ding-Bat took two elephants and absquatulated. Then Sum-Punk took his own elephant and drove home again. Query: Was the properts divided according to the terms of the will?

AN ENERGETIC PRAYER.—At Ry[illegible] three gentlemen heard a cry of "Oh!" as if from some person in distress, the sound proceeding from a wood about a quarter of a mile distant. Full of benevolent intentions, they started at full speed to [illegible] the person who was hurt [illegible] out of breath with their [illegible] discovered the bare head [illegible] above the bushes. As soo[illegible] recover breath, one [illegible] asked, "Are you much hu[illegible] we thought you were about dead." "I am dead to this world, young men, and wish you were so," was the reply from an itinerant preacher, who had arrived the night before, and who had retired to the wood to have a quiet prayer all to himself and such persons who were not dea[illegible] within a circuit of half a mile.—*Newburyport Herald.*

A DISINFECTANT WORTH KNOWING.—We dare say very few persons are aware that coffee is a valuable disinfectant. Experiments, however, have proved that it is the most powerful means, not only of rendering animal and vegetable effluvia innocuous, but of actually destroying them. A room in which meat in an advanced degree of decomposition had been kept for some time, was instantly deprived of all smell on an open coffee-roaster being carried through it, containing a pound of coffee newly roasted. In another room, exposed to the effluvium occasioned by the clearing out of a manure-pit, so that sulphuretted hydrogen and ammonia in great quantities could be chemically detected, the stench was completely removed in half a minute, on the employment of three ounces of fresh roasted coffee, whilst the other parts of the house were permanently cleared of the same smell by being simply traversed with the coffee-roaster, although the cleansing of the pit continued for several hours after. The best mode of using the coffee as a disinfectant is to dry the raw bean, pound it in a mortar, and then roast the powder on a moderately heated iron plate, until it assumes a dark brown tint, when it is fit for use. Then sprinkle it in sinks or cesspools, or lay it on a plate in the room which you wish to have purified. Coffee-acid or coffee-oil acts more readily in minute quantities.

LIME AND SALT.—Professor Johnson recommends an excellent combination for fertilizing purposes, to mix one bushel salt and two bushels dry lime under cover, and allow the mixture to decompose gradually, thus forming an intimate chemical unison of the two materials. For this purpose the mixture should be at least six weeks before use, or, still better, two or three months, the heap mentioned being turned over occasionally. This salt and lime mixture, when applied at the rate of twenty or thirty bushels per acre, forms an excellent top dressing for many crops. It acts powerfully on the vegetable matter of soils. Fifty bushels applied to a turnip field have produced as large a crop as twenty loads of barnyard manure. It is also very destructive to insects and grubs in soil. Like salt it attracts moisture from the air, and has been useful against drouth. Its decomposing power is remarkable, and if three or four bushels of it are mixed with cord of swamp muck, the latter will soon be reduced to powder.

THE CANCER CURE.—The dispatches of "Perley" have alluded frequently to the new discovery of the effect of cundurango as a cure for Cancer. It is said that a woman of Ecuador, where the plant grows, gave it to her husband by mixing it with his food, in the hope that it would terminate his intense sufferings from internal cancer by causing death. Much to her surprise this poisonous root effected a cure. The fact was communicated to the authorities at Washington, and Dr. Bliss, procuring a small supply, tested it with truly wonderful results. A supply will soon be secured from Ecuador, and the medical fraternity are anxious to test its effect. In one case, after taking the decoction, in less than a week the cancer became less indurated, and the color changed from angry red to pale pink.—*Boston Journal.*

A bashful youth was paying his addresses to a gay lass of the country, who had long despaired of bringing things to a crisis. He called one day when she was alone. After settling the merrits of the weather, the girl said, looking slyly into his face:

"I dreamed of you last night."

"Did you? why—now!"

"Yes, I dreamed that you kissed me."

"Why, now! what did you dream your mother said?"

"Oh, I dreamed she wasn't at home."

A light dawned upon the youth's intellect, a singular sound broke the stillness, and in less than four months they were married.