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Guelph Evening Mercury

SATURDAY, EVENING, SEPTEMBER 21.

My Bosom Friend, OR Yankee Fairies at Work.

I had been reading to my little ones the legends of the Northern lands, in which, to tell the truth, I had taken as deep an interest as the open-mouthed young folks themselves.

When the children had gone to bed I lamented that the belief in fairies had died out.

"Alas!" said I, "that they have vanished!"

"Well, I no ken that," replied my Scottish friend, McHaggis; "I'm a thinkin' there are as many giants and fairies in the world as ever there war! Gang yer gate to Waltham, as ye were a talkin' o', and if ye dinna see a lot o' fairies there, and if it is na a giant that carries ye there, ye ken say I'm wrang!"

"A giant carry me?"

"Aye, mon!" said the Scot; "what auld giants that ye e'er read o' can be mated wi' an engine?"

And so, one day, I placed myself behind the giant of the nineteenth century—a locomotive engine—and went to the pretty rural town of Waltham, Mass., in the United States—a town famous "not for a day, but for all time," for here a pair of great steam giants turn the wheels that again turn the wheels that mark the time for a continent. It takes a four-acre lot to hold these giants—each with a hundred iron arms and a thousand steel fingers; and this four-acre lot is built within and without and overhead with brick and iron and glass, and is called, "The American Watch Factory of Waltham," and it was thereabout that McHaggis said I should find the fairies.

But the fairies of our day—like this, the Waltham fairies—are not like those we read of. They don't play elfin pranks, for their every step is measured by the sun; and they have nothing to do with wings, but to mark the steady motion of those of old Father Time himself.

But to drop metaphor, and come down to the practical as well as the poetical part of this fairie hive of industry and order, let us walk through some of the long galleries of this fairie palace, and for guide and mentor we will take one of the managers.

"But first," said we to our guide, "will you please inform us how this great establishment originated?"

He informed me that the manufacture of watches by machinery is a distinctively American undertaking. For several generations a vast number of watches have been made in England, Switzerland, and France; but the component pieces have been made and finished by hand in different factories, and even in different provinces, with no direct relation to each other. Here in Waltham, on the contrary, a watch is created in all its wonderful harmony and exquisite beauty from the original and crude materials—the brass, the steel, the enamel, the gold, the unwrought jewels—under one roof and one supervision, by a mechanism that never tires and never varies.

The task of competing with Europe in the manufacture of watches seemed at first sight to be hopeless. Europe had the market, the reputation, two centuries of experience, and the cheapest of human labor. To make matters worse, there was free trade in watches. A petty tariff of only seven and a half per cent. was all the "protection"—nominal or real—that existed fifteen years ago to foster native enterprise and genius. Ingenious men conceived the idea of manufacturing every part of the watch, and of performing every process of manipulation, by a succession of machines, each of which should execute one function only, and then pass its work over to another piece of mechanism. The only duty left to man in this daring conception was to superintend the work of the iron slaves whom he had created, to carry their products from one to another, and to put the watch together after all its parts had been completed. The scheme was an ideal one; there were no such machines in existence; but the plan was seconded by capital, and, in 1853, the experiment was tried. At that time, although the chief parts of a watch were made by machines, there were still a large number of the pieces turned out by hand, and various important processes entrusted to manual skill, which are now done wholly by mechanism. The company of machines was quickly increased to a regiment, the regiment to a brigade, and now the brigade has become an army.

I asked how many watches were imported annually.

"Formerly about four million dollars' worth yearly," the manager said, "and it took about four millions more to make them go. At the present time, the English watch trade with the United States has nearly ceased, and the Swiss has greatly fallen off."

"How many watches," I asked, "are manufactured at Waltham now?"

"We turn out," said he, "at the rate of 250 a day, or 80,000 a year, of all varieties from good to best."

I asked as to the number of hands employed.

"We average," he replied, "700. We pay good wages, and require intelligent operatives. The situations are soon filled. You will see how we keep the factory; we intend that every room shall be as clean, comfortable, and pleasant as a parlor, and that is one reason why we always secure first-class help."

There is hardly any work in the factory. Iron muscles do everything of that sort. All that the operatives are needed for, after the machines are made, is to watch and guide them.

The Fairies' Home.

We now requested that he would show us something of the factory.

"With pleasure," he replied. "To begin at the beginning, here is the engine-room, where four boilers of thirty horse-power drive the two huge giant that in turn drive a little army of iron fairies all day long to their several tasks. No engine was body of a screw-maker

these early old geni in their dens are busy."

Dens! Why, in this neat room, which has its walls adorned with pictures and many pretty devices, and which, under its window that looks out on a green lawn, has several dozens of thirty conservatory plants growing in pots—is this the Engine House? Sure enough, this is the place. There, sullen and silent, but beautiful, lies the grim power which drives half the factory fairies at work! Let us go up stairs. This long, clean room, filled with lathes and machinery, but neither odorous nor noisy, although the hum of mechanical and human industry never ceases in it—this is the basis of the whole factory: the machine shop. It is 165 feet long, and 30 first-class mechanics are kept at work in it, only in making and repairing the machines and tools which are, without exception, of the best and costliest character. Like all the rooms, this is light and pleasant. But in the next room—to use the words of the excellent Richard Swiveller—there was a staggler. It was a little side room. It had a floor clean as any, walls entirely undisturbed with smoke, neat stalls and shelving for the assortment of steel and iron, and—I pinched myself to see whether I was asleep or awake—nice white curtains hanging at the windows. It was the blacksmith's shop. There were the forges, and the trip hammer, and the anvils, but there were those curtains. I felt that civilization was no longer a problem. The anvil and the Athenaeum are wooing. We passed into another room.

Fairy Workmanship.

"Look!" said my guide, "what do you suppose these are?"

He held up a little vial, such as homoeopathic globules are kept in, which was filled with what seemed to be grains of coarse sand of the color of blue tempered steel.

I placed one of these grains under a microscope, and it proved to be a perfect screw.

"Now," said he, "you may note that it takes 300,000 of these screws to weigh a pound, and that they are worth from \$3,000 to \$3,500 a pound."

Again, he showed me a microscopic bit of steel, the point of which, under the glass, appeared to be exquisitely polished.

I took up a couple of screws and the balance-staff by wetting my finger, and put them carefully into a piece of paper.

"Not that I wish to make you think that you are having valuable property," said the manager, "but how much do you suppose that stuff is worth?"

The foreman made the calculation. "They are worth \$20,000 a pound," he said, "or about 25 cents a piece."

The screws are worth a dollar and a quarter a hundred. It takes fifty-two of them to weigh a grain!"

"Well," said S., "that doesn't seem much, for such workmanship. How do you make watches so cheap?"

"The use of machinery to its utmost limit, and the division of labor as far as possible, accounts for all," rejoined the manager. "Every machine in the factory does one thing only, and it can do nothing else. But it does that one thing incessantly, with incredible rapidity and with unvarying accuracy. Thus, all our watches of one style are precisely alike in all their parts. It is imperative that the watch should be entirely made in a single factory, and under one superintendence. Now foreign watches—the cheaper sort—can have only a relative similarity. They are made in parts everywhere, and get together in Geneva and Paris and London. There are not a score of Parisian watches made in Paris any year. The pieces are made in the rural districts or in Switzerland, and they are sent on to Paris to be fitted together. Many of the English watches are made in the same way—ready manufactured on the continent, and put up in London. There is no great watch factory anywhere, excepting ours, where all the processes are conducted and the movements adjusted under the same roof. We produce a greater number of watches than any other establishment in the world."

"Are you quite sure?" I asked, "that this is the largest factory in the world?"

"There is no question of it," the manager replied, "and what is more, I am told that we made more watches in Waltham last year, than were made in all England."

Fairy Workshops.

This is the press room. It is filled with presses, punches, dies, and rolling and slitting machines. Here long, thin ribbons of steel are passed under a die, which descends with a regular motion, and cuts out a balance wheel at every blow.

In the next room, the blanks—as the rough pieces are called—are prepared for advancement. The barrel blank is a wheel about three fourths of an inch across, and 3-16ths of an inch thick. It is put on a lathe. Round and round it spins with great velocity, rubbing its rough edges against a series of immovable sharp tools which polish off its coarseness; makes it thin and smooth; turn out a chamber for the main spring; drill a hole in the centre to receive the barrel arbor, and turn a flange on the outer edge in which the teeth are cut. All this is done in a twinkling—faster than you or I could describe it in short hand. This machine sets itself.

The barrel is now taken to the dentist's—to have its teeth cut. It is placed in position. Quickly a little chisel spins on a cylinder, cut, cut, cutting as it "swings round the circle," and presently its sixty teeth are finished—all exactly uniform and equidistant. This cutter is a sapphire ground down to the proper size and form by diamond dust and oil, and then fastened into a little wheel or disk. No other material could stand the wear and tear of eating all day long into this hard brass and steel.

Here, in another room, a little machine is splitting out screws, so small that you cannot see their threads.

What you do see at the first glance is a thin thread of steel, finer than the most delicate of pins, slowly pushing its way through a little hole in a machine, and being grasped by a tiny tool which runs round it, as if embracing it; and then, presto! change! out comes a knife and cuts off its head. All this is done so quickly that you have to wait and watch the operation, after you know what it is all about, before you can see the process I have described. The bits thus beheaded with a hug look exactly like little grains of powder. But they are screws.

You notice that when you take a microscope and examine them. They are complete—almost. Not quite yet. The operative picks them up, one by one,

New Advertisements. CO-OPERATIVE STORE! GUELPH, ONTARIO.

THE SUBSCRIBERS HAVE PURCHASED FROM JOHN WHYTE, ESQ. ASSIGNEE, MONTREAL, JOHN DAVIDSON'S STOCK, CONSISTING OF

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES BOOTS AND SHOES.

The Stock amounts to \$670. The price paid was \$2,381.70, being Fifty-one Cents on the Dollar, and the Goods will be sold at the undermentioned figures, being on an average 40 per cent. under wholesale and 108 per cent. below retail prices. For example, goods which originally cost \$1.00, and which have been retailed for \$1.25, cost the subscribers only 51 cents, and are now offered at 60 cents.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT BANKRUPT STOCKS.

A merchant only a short time in business fails and assigns, and then his Goods are called an old Bankrupt Stock. Does the circumstance of his failure convert new coons into old? May not Bankrupt Stocks be as good and as new as others? Purchasers, however, should be the judges. Sellers should not give evidence in their own cause.

LIST OF GOODS AND PRICES:

Former Retail Prices.	Wholesale Prices.	Present Prices.	Former Retail Prices.	Wholesale Prices.	Present Prices.
Winceys, Challies, Checks \$0.40	\$0.32	\$0.20	Beaver Cloth \$2.50	\$2.00	\$1.25
Cobourg Lustres, Orleans \$0.25	0.20	0.12	Wool Shawls \$3.25	2.50	1.50
French Merino \$1.00	0.80	0.50	Mixed Carpets \$0.75	0.60	0.37
Black and Striped Silks \$1.50	1.18	0.70	Costs \$3.75	3.00	1.80
Bleached Cottons \$0.12	0.10	0.08	Pants \$2.25	1.80	1.12
Prints \$0.16	0.12	0.08	Vests \$1.75	1.35	0.80
Cambric Linings \$0.10	0.08	0.05	Ladies' Dresses \$2.50	2.00	1.20
Flannels \$0.40	0.32	0.20	Hats \$0.60	0.50	0.30
Striped Shirts \$0.20	0.16	0.10	Caps \$0.50	0.40	0.25
Canadian Tweeds \$1.00	0.85	0.50	Ribbons \$0.20	0.15	0.10
Cassimeres \$2.25	1.80	1.10	Hose \$0.25	0.20	0.12
Black Cloth \$3.50	2.80	1.70	Cloth Gloves \$0.37	0.30	0.18

Handkerchiefs, Ties, Collars, Sets, Laces, Trimmings, Belts, Florers, Braids, Buttons, &c., &c., Equally Low.

The second semi-annual dividend of three per cent. will be paid to customers on presenting their Pass Books, on and after the 1st October.

Fresh Importations Just Arriving.

WILLIAM MACKLIN & CO.
Guelph, 21st September, 1867.

of steel. This little plate, as soon as it is filled, is placed under another machine, and it would do any Irishman's soul good to see it work. It beats Donnybrook Fair "all hollow." I had never a more convincing proof of the superiority of the mechanical over the manual labor. For while a good hearty man with a stout bit of shillelah may break half a dozen heads in a day,—with fair luck,—this machine, without as much as saying "By your leave," comes out of its hole, and runs along each row, quietly splitting the head of each one of them exactly in the centre. And now the screw is made.

Just this way is the Jewel-room, with rubies and sapphires neatly arranged in glass vials, and in another apartment the acclimating process is conducted. There is something like a large safe built into the wall, which is full of little drawers. Pull out be one on the right side and put in your hand, and you feel that the air is hot. On the left, the air is icy. Watches are first put in the tropical, and then in the arctic zones, until they become citizens of the world. Then, to accustom them to the ups and downs of practical life, they are put away in other drawers and tested in different positions. One stands on its head for a day, when it is suddenly reversed; but no sooner does it become accustomed to that than it is laid flat on its back.

I examined the watch-case rooms.—Every case is composed of more than thirty parts. In the lower rooms the bars are melted; and,—to be brief,—after a great variety of processes up stairs and down, they are rapidly turned out the models of beauty and elegance that we take to our homes and our bosoms. The different parts are soldered together under little French-like roofs, which extend along the benches and prevent the room from being begrimed with smoke. Workmen, after tying two parts together with wires, fuse them by suddenly lighting up a tube, almost exactly like a snake which instantly splits out a stream of fire, and plays on the detached parts until they are welded—"now and for ever, one and inseparable."

I saw a hundred curious processes that I have no room to describe, and what I have written must be taken only as an outline sketch, not at all colored, of a wonderful picture of genius, applied to the development of mechanical skill. I saw the delicate steel nerve and brass muscle into which, by and by, the breath of life is to be breathed, until it beats true time in the passionate ruby heart of the perfect watch,—every tiny bone and invisible joint is fashioned by these muscles made visible,—polished, welded, and perfectly adjusted, as by no human hand! They were merely passed, in pretty trays, by skilled hands to infinitely more skillful mechanisms—going as it were from nursery to school, from school to college and from college to humanity; until after a hundred private tests, and public examinations not a few, they are finally put together, a diploma or guarantee that they will do their duty is given to each of them; and then they are sent to mark the perfect measure of the passing hours.

Who shall say that the American Watch Co. of Waltham, Mass., U.S.A., is not one of the fairy wonders of the century?—Boston, Mass., Advertiser.

FRUITS, &c.

MRS. ROBINSON
Has just received at the

Dominion Grocery, Fruit and Fancy Store,

Ripe Tomatoes, Lemons, Cherries, &c. Also, a varied stock of General Groceries and Fancy Goods. Don't forget the stand, next door to the Wellington Hotel, Upper Wyndham Street.

Post Office Store to Rent.
Apply to Mrs. Robinson, or at the Post Office. Guelph, August 1, 1867. daw

FARM FOR SALE.
FOR SALE, an excellent farm in Ermosa, with a good stone house and other buildings thereon. For full particulars apply to

BLAIR & GUTHRIE,
September 10, 1867. Solicitors, Guelph.

TO PRINTERS.
WANTED at this office a young lad who has a

THE TORONTO SCHOOL of MEDICINE

IN AFFILIATION WITH THE

University of Toronto.

25th SESSION—1867-1868.

THE Lectures will commence on the 1st of October, and continue six months.

FACULTY.

M. Barrett, M.A., M.D., Emeritus Lecturer on Institutes of Medicine.

Joseph Workman, M.D., Superintendent of Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Clinical Lecturer on Psychological Medicine.

E. M. Hodder, M.D., F.R.C.S., England, Physician to Toronto Lying-in-Hospital, Surgeon to the Toronto General Hospital, Lecturer on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, 159 Queen St. West.

W. T. Atkins, M.D., Surgeon to the Toronto General Hospital, Lecturer on Principles and Practice of Surgery, 70 Queen-St. West.

H. H. Wright, M.D., L.C.P. & S., U.C., Physician to the Toronto General Hospital, Lecturer on Principles and Practice of Medicine, 187 Queen street East.

J. H. Richardson, M.D., M.R.C.S., England, Surgeon to the Gaol. Lecturer on General and Descriptive Anatomy. 116 Bay street.

Uziel Ogden, M.D., Physician to the House of Industry and Protestant Orphans' Home. Lecturer on Materia Medica and Therapeutics. 57 Adelaide street West.

J. Thorburn, M.D., Edinburgh and Toronto University, Physician to Toronto Dispensary and Boy's Home, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence. 105 Church street.

James Howell, M.D., L.R.C.P., England, Physician to the Toronto Lying-in-Hospital, Lecturer on Institutes of Medicine, Denison Avenue.

James Rowell, M.D., Surgeon to the Toronto General Hospital, Lecturer on Surgical Anatomy and Demonstrator of Anatomy, 306 Yonge street.

CLINICAL LECTURES
will be given to the pupils of this School, at the General Hospital by Drs. Hodder, Atkins, Wright and Rowell.

HENRY H. CROFT, D.C.L., F.L.S., Professor of Chemistry and Experimental Philosophy at University College.

WILLIAM HICKES, F.L.S., Professor of Botany, &c., University College.

Further information may be had of any member of the Faculty.

W. T. ATKINS, M.D., President.
H. H. WRIGHT, M.D., Secretary.
Toronto, 13th Sept. 1867. s,t,h,d.—w21n

MOLASSES!
Standard Syrup.
Golden Syrup,
Amber or Honey do.

For sale at Lowest Prices
AT JOHN A. WOOD'S.
Guelph, 3rd September, 1867. dtf

QUEEN'S BOOK!
A FRESH SUPPLY of the above expected at

AT SHEWAN'S
BOOKSTORE

IN A FEW DAYS, which will be SOLD CHEAP.

N. B.—The spies of Day expected at the same time.
Guelph, 10th Sept., 1867. d

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R. HOPKINS & CO.,

RESPECTFULLY inform the inhabitants of Guelph and surrounding country, that they are prepared to fill all orders for any quantity of

The Dominion Bitters
Put up in barrels, half-barrels, kegs and bottles. N. B.—Purchasers will not confound the "Dominion Bitters" with the "New" or "Old" Dominion Bitters.

Manufactured a few doors West of the Wellington Hotel, Wyndham Street.
Guelph, July 23, 1867. daw-1f

CATTLE STRAYED.
LOST on the night of Wednesday the 5th inst. between Guelph and Preston, three F.A.T. CATTLE, marked A on right hip. Any person giving information in this County, which, upon investigation, is found to be correct, will be rewarded by Isaac Atkinson, Hamilton, will be rewarded by

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Special attention is directed to our new Autumn and Winter CLOAKINGS, &c.

HOGG & CHANCE.
Guelph, 13th September, 1867. do-1f

REMOVAL. REMOVAL.

THE SUBSCRIBER HAS REMOVED HIS

**BOOT AND SHOE STORE
TO DAY'S BLOCK!**

(Opposite Horsman's Hardware Store.)

Where he will be most happy to see his old customers, and all others who may wish to try his celebrated Boots and Shoes. All orders promptly attended to.

THOMAS BROWN,
Guelph, 5th September, 1867. dw

Day's Block, Wyndham-st., Guelph.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS CHANGE!

MONTREAL

BOOT AND SHOE STORE

JOHN McNEIL,

Who has been in the employment of Wm. McLaren for years,

WOULD respectfully announce to the inhabitants of Guelph and vicinity that he has purchased the whole stock in trade of **WM. McLAREN**, consisting of **BOOTS AND SHOES**, at

A GREAT

Reduction on Original Cost!

and is determined to give **A BENEFIT** to the old customers of this Institution, and all who may favor him with their patronage. **JOHN McNEIL** is determined to maintain the old laurels won by his predecessor, and also to add many new ones, by keeping only the best of Goods, and always selling at the **LOWEST PRICES.**

During the Next Thirty Days,

he will sell off all **Light Goods** at less than than original Cost Prices. Low prices must be coupled with Ready Money. No man can sell at small profits unless he does a large business, and adhere strictly to the cash principle.

J. M. solicits an early call from those in want of good and cheap Boots and Shoes. A supply of

HOME MANUFACTURED GOODS!

always on hand. All kinds of Goods made to order. **REPAIRING** done with Neatness and Despatch.

ALL WORK WARRANTED!

Country Merchants are invited to call, examine our Stock, and hear our Prices.

JOHN McNEIL,
Montreal Boot and Shoe Store, Wyndham-st., Guelph, O. (dw)

CARD.

HAVING disposed of my **BUSINESS** to Mr. **JOHN McNEIL**, who has been in my employment, I have much pleasure in recommending him as a person qualified to maintain the reputation which I foster myself has been accorded to the **Boot and Shoe Store** since it was opened. The best proof I could have of this is the more than liberal support extended to myself during the long period that I have been in the management of the store. Mr. McNEIL, your reader, and has an extensive connection in this County, which, coupled with his business, and courteous manner, augurs well for the success of his new enterprise.