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Please Give me 150 Is that the Golden Star, Park street Yes. Send me:—

John McConnell

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#### TRIALS OF AN AGENT.

ONE DAY'S BITTER EXPERIENCES OF A MAN IN NEED.

Cashle to Find Other Employment, He Undertook the Task of Peddling - He Now Appeals to Housewives In Behalf of the Chaps Who Ring the Doorbell.

If perchance my reader is a busy house wife whose patience and temper are sore-ly tried by the incessant ringing of hucksters, peddiers, agents and the like, I adjure her to stay her wrath, for these men are trying as best they can to gain a living from a hard and unsympathetic world. And a very poor living and a very hard world it is to these hapless waifs of for-tune, many of whom are forced by hard luck and poverty to take up this most un-pleasant employment. None, I am sure, does so from choice. It is this or—starvation. Too proud to beg, too honest to steal, from door to door the weary agent goes, meeting with rebuffs and insults and callous regard that cut a man's heart to the

quick.
It fell to the writer's lot, through circumstances unnecessary to detail, that he was forced to try to earn his bread by any honest means be could. The "ignis fatuus" of promised employment had lured him into the bog of pennilessness. I knew that an agent's life was not a rosy one, but I had heard of men making at least a living, and, being young and strong, why should not I? I looked around for something to sell and finally chanced upon a safety pin. I could get a dozen for 60 cents, which I could retail for 10 cents each, quite a nice profit, and visions of dozens sold in a day brought a speedy solution of my financial difficulties.

Never shall I forget my sensation when

I rang the first doorbell. I could feel my cheeks burn, and had it not been for the presence of two men on the opposite corner I believe I would have turned and fled. It was too late. The door opened, and before me stood my first possible customer.

For a moment I was too embarrassed to speak; then I stammered, "Is—is—the lady of the house in?" (The proper formula, I believe.) "Yes, sir," she was. With a grand effort I produced a sample of my pin and began: "I have here, madam, a new safety pin, an excellent thing for children; will positively not come unfastened, cannot bend or break and which I am selling at 10 cents; would you take one?" She must have read my inexperience at a glance, for it was with a smile she answered, "No, I do not need any; good day," and the door was closed. Setback No. 1. Well, next door perhaps they will need some. No, they had no children. The next had children, but they didn't need pins; so on to another; perhaps they were pinless. Here I met no response to my ringing, and lacking courage to ring again I walked past a few houses to brace up for

another trial. Hardly had the bell ceased to jingle in the place I was then trying when a win-dow ruised, and in no gentle accents I heard: "Get off my steps with your dirty feet. We don't want anything." I got. Although my shoes were neatly black-ened, I felt as if I had acres of mud on them. And mean! Great heavens, if a man convicted of some cowardly crime could feel more abject than I did I pity him! I walked so fast to get away and cover my mortification that I possed out of the block before I could collect my senses. It seemed to me as if every window held some one watching me and that every one knew my errand and had contempt for me. My purpose was an honest one, but shame was

dressed and as I flattered myself of genteel appearance I would not have the agent's stamp; now my disguise was torn from me, and I was scorned by all men. However, this was not going to do. My last few cents were represented by these wretched pins, and sell them somehow I must. I soothed my injured feelings by thoughts of better luck, and, though sadly lacking my former confidence, I started on another row of houses. At some I was listened to with patience. I fancied once I had a customer. At others I scarcely be-gan before the stereotyped "Don't want any" came. Time and again the door was closed in my face at the first sign of my calling, and at several places the householder contented herself with answering from a window. My prospects of selling

ned to grow less and less. While less sensitive than at the first, I was still haunted by the idea that everybody was looking at me, and had I not chanced upon my first customer I would have even then given up in despatr. At the last house in the row a cheery little woman answered the bell, and when I showed her my attractive (?) article she was attention at once. "Why, that is just what I want." Would I wait a minute un-til she got her purse? Would I? I would have waited hours. God bless her! The was like water to a thirsty traveler.

That 10 cent piece she gave me I would not part with were I starving. I grew hopeful again; had walked through two blocks and sold one pin; time, 20 minutes I had 11 left. Twenty-two blocks and 8 hours and 40 minutes more and all would be gone. Doggedly I went from door to door, with a defiant air that sadly belied my feeling. I really would have been sur-prised if I had sold a ein, but I meant to see the thing through to the bitter end. Growing more and more tired and heart-sick, I kept on until dusk found me miles from home It was not so much the inability to dispose of my stock in trade; it was a bitter feeling of resentment against the callous, hard hearted world that deprived me of desire or courage to face its insult, rebuffs and thoughtless cruelty to one so unfortunate as to be—an agent.

I have the 11 pins yet. Any one can have them at cost, with lots of experience thrown in. All I have to say to one embedding on such a core is less years. barking on such a career is, lose your pride and sensitiveness, recognize in your-self an outcast and a nuisance. If you cannot, go and break stones on the highways.

Stones are not harder than hearts to the unfortunate.—Philadelphia Exchange. A Short Sermon.

No time or place is sacred to the enthusiastic joker. Duclos tells, in his memoir how the prince archbishop of Cologne ask ad license to preach in the royal chapel at Versailles, when visiting Louis XIV him-self. All the court assembled. It was April 1. The prince archbishop mounted the pulpit in stately fashion, bowed from side to side and stood a moment as if cel-lecting his thoughts, then shouted "April lools!" picked up his skirts and ran.

"Pa, are you only an imitation man?"
"No, child. Why?"
"'Cause I heard sister Belle tell Mr.
Padger in th' hall las' night 'at he wus
th' on'y real man in th' whole world."—
Chicago Record.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

#### THE OPERA.

The glitter of diamonds and big, bright eyes Rival each other in a box there, And the smiling red mouth which always de nies
The old, old story of heartarne and care,
And the spirit which ever delies.

But the shine of tears in her brooding eyes Rivals the jewels which gleam in her hair, While I feel that her coldness | # only lies, That such routine she can hardly bear, For her pale face droops as the voices rise.

I wonder if memory sings a lay Of last winter's sport and an ardent boy, and the darling moods of that passionate day When she won, and maddened her favorite

toy.
Then left him alone and rode away.
—Irene Osgood in Vanity Fair.

THE HUTCHINSON LETTERS.

Franklin Would Never Reveal How Ho Obtained the Documents, High officials in Massachusetts had in private letters to the secretary of George Grenville discussed in bitter terms the liberal movement in the colony and had recomnuended coercive measures on the part of the home government. These lette in some unexplained way, fell into Frank lin's bands, and he felt in duty bound to send them to Boston for inspection by the popular leaders. As might have been expected, they caused a great furor both in Massachusetts and in England, and in the latter country a dispute between two gen-tlemen as to how they had been obtained led to a nearly fatal duel. Franklin now intervened, stated that he had forwarded the letters, but refused to say how he came by them and faced the storm of popular disfavor as calmly as only a philosopher could. He was examined before the privy council, insulted in a scurrilous and shame ful manner by the solicitor general, Wedderburn, and the councilors themselves, dismissed from his postmastership and deprived of much of the public respect that had been previously shown him, but not of the self respect that marked his behav-

ior throughout the entire affair. His conduct has since been defended and reprobated and must always, in one particular, be hard to characterize. Our final verdict must plainly depend on a knowledge of how he got the letters, but this is just what he never would reveal. We are therefore left to infer from Franklin's, character whether he would have taken them in an improper way. He him-self certainly believed that he had done nothing wrong, but it remains to be determined whether he was an absolutely fair judge of what a gentleman should have

for under the circumstances.

From a purely political point of view he stands abundantly justified. Nine-tenths of the English and American statesmen of the time would have taken the letters glad-ly and asked no inconvenient questions as to how they were obtained. But would Burke or Washington have done so? The answer cannot be doubtful. Neither Burke nor Washington would have touched the papers without being first convinced that the person offering them came by them honestly and being provided with proper safeguards for his own personal honor.— Professor W. P. Trent in McCliste's.

The Buddhist Sacred Tree.

Father Huc, when he could not under-stand what seemed to him to be marvelous, invariably set it down to the cevil. There was a sacred tree, sear a lamasery which put out leages impressed with a sacred character of the Tibetan language. Bayard Taylor, however, explained how it was done. In the bullstin of the American Geographical society the exact character of this tree is described and how the letters

The story of the sacred tree that grows in front of the temple in the Tibetan lamasery of Kumbum has been severely shaken by recent investigations. Father Huc told, in his charming book, of this tree, whose leaves were miraculously inscribed with figures of Buddha, sacred formulæ or prayers. Later explorers, among whom were Potanine, Grenard and Szechenyi, saw the tree and attempted to explain the mysterious markings on its leaves and bark. M. Potanine thought some insect wrought the tracings. Another explanation was that the markings pertained naturally to the tree, which was very remarkable, indeed, inasmuch as whole sentences in the Tibetan language might be read on the leaves. The one thing certain was that the priests sold the leaves at a very high price to the faithful. M. Edouard Blanc, the explorer, who has returned to France, saw the sacred tree while in Tibet, and asserts that the holy inscriptions are an evident artifica f human hands, and that the imposition has been handed down from one generation to another of the lamss of Kumbum, who number about 2,000. Some of the leaves were submitted last summer to Mr. This tleton-Dyer of Kew Gardens, London. He says that the tree is an ordinary syrings villosa, common in China, and that the markings are impressed on the leaves by molds, aided probably with heat.

Lively New York. He was a New Yorker and proud of his city, and although his Chicago friend pointed out sight after sight, boasted or the city's fine boulevards and drove the New Yorker over them, he failed to excite in his guest more than a slight curiosity. Then he brought up the subject of tal

"Chicago beats the world," he said.

"Our tall buildings top anything ever "Well, well," said the New Yorker "that's queer. Ever heard of that build ing in New York that the clouds bump against? Never heard of it, eh? I'll tel you something about it. When they put the last story on it, a workman fell off the top. Some time later I was passing along the street below when a newsboy yelled 'Extry! Full account of the accident.' bought a paper, and it described how the man toppled off and all that. But—what do you think? While I was reading it some thing dropped with a crash. What was it Why, the workman, of course! He'd just reached the ground!"—Harper's Round

Among the suggestions offered for the union of the United States flag when the first congress was considering the subject of a national standard was a rattlesnaks with 18 rattles, and a flag bearing this device, with the motto, "Don't treed of me," was actually employed by one of the

The nest of the tree wasp or hornet i made of a true paper, wood being ground to pulp by the jaws of the wasp and treat

Henry III of England ordained that the English penny should equal the weight of 32 grains of wheat.

According to mailing distance, Cyprus is 17 days from New York city.

KANGAROO HUNTING.

There are two ways of hunting kangarose in Australia, one followed by native hunters and the other by white men. The natives surrounded \$\frac{2}{3}\$ herd of the animals, narrow the circle and then, when the kangaroos dash at them in wild effort to escape, kill them with short spears and clubs, commonly called waddles. It is lively work for the

Best for Wash Day

white, with the least

remarkable lasting and cleansing properties make SURPRISE most Every Day

## ...Men and Boys Wanted...

Until stock-taking is over, February 28th.

We have left over from our winter stock of ready made clothing of our own make, which we guarantee pure wool,

which we offer to the public at the following prices:

17 Men's Ulsters, assorted shades, tweed lined, regular \$9 and \$8 at \$6.99.

2 Boys' Ulsters, sizes 29 to 34, tweed lined, regular \$6.50 for \$4.99.

10 Boys' Ulsters, sizes 25 to 28, tweed lined, regular \$5.50 for \$4.49.

75 Men's Suits, regular price \$8.50 to \$9.50 for \$6.99.

200 pairs of all-wool pants, regular price \$1.75 to \$2, for \$1.50 pair.

ABOVE PRICES ARE FOR CASH ONLY

We also have a complete range of the choicest patterns in tweeds, worsted suitings, pattings for our ordered clothing department. Suits to order, best fit and trimmings guaranteed for \$10.50 to \$23. All we sak the public is to call and inspect our prices, pattern and quality of our goods, and you will be convinced that they are the cheapest and best for you to

buy,

We invite the ladies also to inspect our double fold and single width dress tweeds, flannels and cloakings.

Best Family Flour and Feed of all kinds.

The T. H. Taylor Co., L't'd.,

# QUAIL ON TOAST

IT LEADS ALL OTHERS. = MANUFACTURED BY O'BRIEN BROS. CHATHAM, ONT.

native. The kangaroo uses its hind legs visiously and with great judgment, and utogs, horses and men have been torn open by the nails of its hind feet. The white men perfer to follow the kangagoos with dogs. Every herd of kangaroos has a leader, known as the old man or boomer, which warns its followers of the approach of danger by stamping the ground with its hind foot, making a booming sound that starts all the kangaroos in hearing or a starts all the kangarogs in hearing or a run. A scared herd will run twenty or thirty miles at times, or until it reaches safety. A male weighs from 100 to 175 pounds and is seven or eight feet long. The English make until parties of hunters and follow the kangarogs with dogs company tilks for

Women and men join in the sport, riding to the hounds on good horses. "Riding to the place where a berd of the beasts had been seen the day before by bushmen." a Sportsmen's Magazine writer says, "we came to the bush, a growth of ubiquitous to trees and tree ferns, fit to brush one off his borse. Quiet was the word of caution passed when we came hear the sparsely grown ground beyond the bush where the kangaroos had been seen. The dogs were called in and then we road from the bush into view of the berd's sent inel, and then went away the kangarods, followed by the dogs, and we were at the tail tips of the dogs. The kangaroes could not run, but folded their fore legs across their breasts, they sat down. Then, with tail and hind legs away they went by bops, no hop being

garoo with dogs somewhat like fox-hounds, but of greater size and strength.

than twenty feet long and others being more than thirty feet. They cleared shrubs twelve feet high. "Curiously enough, the kangaroo travels faster up hill than down the dogs catching up on the down slopes. The beast sometimes breaks its neck while running down hill by going head over heels. The does began to throw their young out of their pouches, and we knew they were hard pressed. They turned suddenly for the water. We found the dogs at a water hole with two boomers at bay We dismounted and, drawing our kaives, waited an op-portunity to run in and hamstring them. A dog rushed in and was caught by a hind leg of a boomer and pressed under water, where it was quickly drowned.
Then a dog got one of the beasts by the
back and threw it, whereupon my cousin
quickly hamstrung it, while I rapped
its nose with my whip, killing it. We had kangaroo tail soup and steaks for dinner several days."

A MESSAGE TO MEN. Proving that true honesty and true

debilitated, or who is suffering from any of the various troubles resulting from youthful folly, excesses or overwork, will take heart and write to me, I will send him confidentially and free of charge the plan pursued by which I was completely restored to perfect health and manhood, after years of suffering from Nervous Debility, Loss of Vigor and Organic Weakness.

Weakness. I have nothing to sell and therefore want no money, but as I know through want no money, but as I know through my own experience how to sympathize with such sufferers, I am glad to be able to assist any fellow-being to a cure. I am well aware of the preva-lence of quackery, for I myself was deceived and imposed upon until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but I re-poice to say that I am now perfectly nearly lost faith in mankind, but I rejoice to say that I am now perfectly well and happy once more, and am desirous therefore to make this certain means of cure known to all. If you will write to me you can rely upon being cured and the proud satisfaction of having been of great service to one in need will be sufficient reward for any trouble. Absolute secrecy assured. Send 5c. silver to cover postage and address. Mr. Geo. G. Strong, North Rockwood. Mich.

THIRTEEN ON THE QUARTER. For those who believe in the fatality of the number 13 the American quarterdollar is about the most unlucky article dollar is about the most unitury article
they can carry on their person. On
this coin are 13 stars, 13 letters in the
scroll which the eagle holds in its
claws, 13 feathers in its wing, 13
feathers in its tail; there are 13 parallel
lines on the shield, 13 horizontal
stripes, 13 arrowheads and 13 letters in
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YUUND MEN troubled with Weakness, Nervous dency, Aversion to society, Kidney Troubles, or any iscase of the Genito-Urinary Organs can here find safe and speedy cure. Charges reasonable, especially to the poor. CURES GUARANTEED.

MIDDLE-AGED MEN — There are many trouble evacuations of the bladder, often accompanied by a slight smarting or burning sensation, and weaken ing of the system in a manner the patient cannot account for. On examining the urinary deposits, a ropy sediment will often be found, and sometimes particles of albumen will appear, or the color be of a thin, milkish hue, again changing to a dark, turbid appearance. There are many men who die of this difficulty, ignorant of the cause, The dootry will guarantee a perfect cure in all such cases, and healthy restoration of the genito-ular of their case and have medicines sent by express with full instructions for use.

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