

NOTES AND COMMENTS

We wish all of our friends, readers, as well as subscribers to the Express, all the pleasure, happiness and success they can stand, during 1912, without physical or moral injury. We hope to retain your friendship and patronage, and will try to merit the same by giving you a good clean paper, treating everyone alike, showing no favoritism in matters of church, state or citizenship. If you have the money to pay in advance, well, we will accept it, and two hearts will be made glad, yours and ours. If you are a little shy for a time, our heart goes out in sympathy for you, as we know all about it, and will wait, as usual. But for heaven's sake, if you are anywhere from 3 to 10 years in arrears, come in and pay up, and then just to show your appreciation of our kindness in waiting on you so long, stop the paper. It always makes a fellow feel good to be useful that way, and to know that his old friends have stood by him so long. In any case come in.

LIFE IN TURKEY.

The following letter was received recently from Turkey.

Hadjin, Turkey in Asia,
Oct. 19, 1911.

Mr. J. Bradley,
Aylmer, Ont.

Dear brother—Greetings to you from Turkey. Kindly find enclosed a receipt for the money you sent for our work, and accept the heartfelt thanks of our Mission Circle for the same.

Funds have been coming in very slow this year, so we greatly appreciate the kindness of those who still remember the poor and orphans of this dark land. May God bless you abundantly. We are very glad that the hot summer is over and it is getting cooler. The heat is very trying and the sun is dazzling in summer.

No doubt the Canadian papers are giving news of the war between Turkey and Italy. It does not affect us here, and we hear very little about it, as we are so shut out from the world, newspapers, railroads, etc.

Our work is progressing nicely. We have much to encourage us. We have a faithful band of spirit-filled natives, who, burning with a zeal for God, go forth in numbers and hold prayer meetings in the homes of the unconverted parts of the city. Then they come to our public services, bringing the new converts with them and often others, who are almost persuaded.

You can imagine what an inspiration this is to us, and how much more rapidly the work advances with their aid. Please remember these native Christians in your prayers.

I am sure you would like to visit Turkey and see the strange sights and customs. You would see fast and neglect everywhere, and from the loud noisy way of talking you would imagine that everyone was quarrelling. You would say that "Hadjin" was the dirtiest city you ever saw, dead animals lying in the streets and the filth smells would be so bad that I am afraid you'd hold your handkerchief over your nose.

But most of all, the people have never seen any better, so they think it a fine city, and ask us if we are "thankful from Hadjin!" That is their way of asking if we like Hadjin. Few of them realize that admission makes any sacrifice in coming here.

The majority think their customs far better than ours, and think that if you Americans could only hear of their customs, you'd accept them at once. When eating it is their custom to sit cross-legged on the floor, in front of a large dish, which is placed on a low stool, and contains the food. All eat from the same dish. The meat is cut into small pieces and eaten with the fingers. One Turk when asked if he didn't think our custom was more cleanly, replied: "No, everyone knows whether he has washed his fingers, but you can never tell who washes the knives and forks."

They also think that our custom of washing the hands and face in the same water in a basin a very dirty one. They hold their hands over a basin and another pours water on them from a brass ewer.

The time has now come for fleas, bed bugs, and sandflies. We sleep with a cheese cloth tent over our beds. Natives move out, leave the bugs in possession of the house. They sleep on the flat roofs. Grandparents with their sons and wives and grandchildren all live together in one house. Generally all sleep together on the floor of the same room. So you see, Orientals assemble rather than retire to rest.

It is common sight to see a funeral service conducted on the roof, or in the middle of the street. The corpse is often washed by a stream, or on the roof, or street, exposed to the full gaze of the passer by. We attended the funeral of an officer, which was conducted on the roof, and after the service, the body was jerked out of the rude coffin and stripped of the gown on it. They then proceeded to clothe the corpse in his best clothes, right before the crowd. If a

person dies in the morning they are buried the same forenoon, there being only an interval of a few hours between a death and interment.

One day we went to see them bury a dear old lady, who was a friend of ours. Her son is a professor in a native college, and her daughter a trained nurse. After the corpse was placed in the coffin poles were nailed to the bottom in order to carry it. We went to the mountain side and waited while they dug the grave, scarcely daring to watch the process, lest we should see the bones of other dead dug up, as frequently occurs. When all was ready, they took large stones and pounded off the poles they had fastened to the coffin. You can imagine how the noise and jarring of the corpse grated on our ears. Then after the body was placed in the grave, the face was uncovered, and a large lump of earth was thrown down on it. The lady with me said: "I'm willing to spend my life for those people, but can't help hoping I shall never have to be buried here."

Cemeteries have no fences, and when we passed some on our way into the country, we were horrified to see human bones lying all about, having been dug up by the dogs. Few can afford to buy a coffin, so are wrapped in a sheet and buried.

Thanking you for your practical interest in our work, and soliciting your prayers, Yours in the Master's service,
D. C. Ely.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

While the family are all at home have a group taken. Open New Year's Day, the Clark Studios.

E. W. R. Hill, wife and family were the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Middleton of Alvinston over Christmas.

Messrs. George and Albert Blashill of Buffalo are spending the holidays with their parents here.

Mr. R. Seed left last Friday to spend a couple of weeks with his parents in New York.

Mr. A. Miller of Arkona is spending a week or so with relatives and friends in Aylmer and vicinity.

It pays to get your hair cut at the new barber shop, in rear of the Traders bank down the alley, next to Dr. McVay's.

E. D. L. Kern of Detroit and Miss Mary Kern of Frankfurt Mich. are enjoying a visit with their sister, Miss Kern and grandmother Mrs. M. Campbell.

The Third Annual Winter Show of the West Elgin Poultry Association will be held Jan. 2, 3, 4 at West Elgin. \$500 is offered in prizes for live and dressed poultry.

Miss Yonell, who has been spending the past 18 months traveling in Europe is spending the Christmas holidays with her brothers and many Aylmer friends.

Mrs. H. Death of Lambton Mill. Mr. R. Walker of Pr. Credit are the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Oliphant of Luton over Christmas.

Both the incoming and outgoing Xmas mail this year has been according to Postmaster Ashbaugh, "the heaviest that has been". This is a pretty good evidence of the general prosperity of the country.

The Jaffa Baptist church will hold a Sunday School entertainment on Thursday Jan. 4th. A good programme furnished by the Dunboynes Union church consisting of dialogues, drills, music and recitations. Admission 10 and 15c.

The Woman's Institute will hold their regular meeting in the town hall council chamber, on Wednesday next, Jan. 3, at 2.30 p.m. Some special features of the meeting will be some very interesting papers, also a roll call, each member to answer with a New Year's resolution or suggestion. Everybody welcome.

A novelty shower was held at the home of Fred Prong, 5th con. Malahide, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 20, in honor of Miss Pearl. Friends and neighbors to the number of about 40 were present, and the large assortment of presents testified to the esteem in which the young lady is held. The evening was spent with music and games, a lunch was served at midnight.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Tibbitts celebrated the 55th anniversary of their marriage on Christmas eve. To help them commemorate it properly, Wm. Nellis and wife, of Dresden, who stood up with them at their wedding, were present, and it is needless to say a most enjoyable time was spent. Shortly after the marriage, they lost track of each other for 30 years, and when they again met, both had a family of two boys, and both had named them George and Frank and the Frank of both families had each a family of three sons and two daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Tibbitts also acted as the bridesmaid and groomsmen at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Nelles. Taken all together, we have never known a more remarkable wedding anniversary, or a more pleasing and strange lot of coincidences. We hope Burley and his wife, who are most highly esteemed citizens of Aylmer and Mr. and Mrs. Nelles will live to enjoy many more reunions of this kind.

We wish
You
A
Happy
New Year



We wish
You
Good Luck
All through
1912

CLEAN-OUTS FOR THIS WEEK

TIES About 75 of them, regular 35c and 50 lines, clearing this week at 25c

BLACK WORSTED SOX Only 32 pairs left, regular 25c line, clearing this week at 19c

STIFF HATS Any stiff hat (except King Hats) clearing this week at \$1.25

HOUSE COATS Only 9 left, sizes 35 to 37, a great big cinch, clearing this week at \$1.25

HOUSE SLIPPERS What we have left, we are clearing at 1/5 off regular prices.

Get next to
This Bunch
of Snaps

FINE SHIRTS Sizes 16 and 16 1/2, about 100 in the lot, regular \$1 and \$1.25, clearing this week at 75c

MUFFLERS Just a few of these nice blue knit ones, clearing this week at 19c

OVERCOATS Any man's, boy's or child's Overcoat, clearing at 1/5 off regular prices.

THE G. R. CHRISTIE COMPANY
RELIABLE OUTFITTERS

It is feared that Sir Charles Tupper is failing.

Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Sanders leave today for their home in Brandon.

F. W. Addison leaves on Friday for Calgary, Alta.

Messrs. T. Hammond, E. A. Miller and E. C. Monteith were re-elected school trustees on Wednesday.

A fine baby girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon King on Friday last.

Mr. Earl Grisle and Miss Nina Dewar of Middlemiss are spending the Xmas holidays with Lizzie McConnell.

Mr. C. H. Bardick spent Xmas at Dunnville, where he met a cousin whom he had not seen for 51 years.

Mrs. Henry Buchler and children, of Chicago are spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Koyle, of Kingsmill.

The Rev. and Mrs. R. D. Hamilton and family of Bantford are spending Xmas week with Mrs. Geo. Pepper.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Crane, of New York City spent Christmas with the former sister Mrs. Marshall Baker, Otter View Farm.

Miss Elizabeth Tongue of St. Lake's Hospital, Chicago, is spending a few weeks with her parents here.

Mr. John Fisher who has been in the West for the past 4 years, is home with his mother for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Clifton of Minneapolis Min. spent a couple of days in town this week, the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Fear.

Mr. and Mrs. Ern. E. Dancy and children have returned home from a short visit with Dr. J. Dancy of Capac Mich.

Mr. Geo. Ellis has bought out the tin-smithing and plumbing business of J. Y. Smiley, and his many friends have every confidence that he will make a success of his new venture.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Williams, of Vancouver, B. C. are expected here the last of this week to spend a day or so with Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Brown and Mrs. Dr. Mann, who is a sister of Mrs. Williams. They are on a trip around the world. Mr. Williams was a resident of Aylmer many years ago and those of his old friends who are left, will be glad to see him.

On Friday afternoon last the employees of the Aylmer Pump & Scale Co. surprised Mr. Henry Sheldon, foreman of the machine room, who goes to Buffalo January first, by an address expressive of the high esteem in which he is held by all and a beautiful club bag. Mr. Sheldon was taken completely by surprise, but expressed the fact that he reciprocated the feelings of respect and esteem and was sorry in many ways to break a connection that had been so pleasant.

Mr. Douglas the popular teller of the Molson Bank spent Xmas at his home in Meaford.

Alma Martin, of Vienna, and Charles N. Perry, of Brownsville, were married in the former village, Christmas Day.

Excessive cigarette smoking is causing the Crown Prince of Germany trouble with his heart.

J. J. Lamb, of Saskatoon, if spending a week or so among his many Aylmer friends.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. P. Watts and children left for their home in Owen Sound on Tuesday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Cran of New York spent several days during the past week in Aylmer and vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hemingway, of Weyburn, Sask. and E. Gibson, of Washington, D. C. are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hemingway for a short time.

Dr. Cecil Luton and Mrs. Luton, of Los Angeles Cal., are spending a week or so with Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Lyons, who will return home with them and spend the winter in California.

The music furnished by the choir of the different churches in Aylmer on Sunday last, would have done credit to any city church. Aylmer is proud of her musicians and has every reason to be.

Dr. W. G. Sanders arrived from Brandon on Sunday last, making the reunion of the family of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Price for Xmas complete. If there was any other family on earth who had a bigger, better or happier time than we did, they must have gone some.

The marriage took place at high noon on Wednesday Dec. 20th at the Methodist parsonage at Aylmer of Miss Ethel Stringer, daughter of Mr. Abner Stringer of Malahide and Earl Schooley a prosperous farmer of Luton. The bride was attired in her wedding gown of dove panama with hat to match her going away dress of brown broad cloth. The happy couple left for points east, Simcoe, Buffalo and Niagara Falls on their return will make their home in Tillsonburg.

A young man in Aylmer and another young man residing in the country, went out shooting on Xmas and had the bad luck to kill 10 squirrels. The matter was brought to the attention of Game Warden Cascarden with the result that a fine of \$50. was imposed by magistrate Bradley, which was the lowest amount possible for him to assess. We would not mention this matter but for the fact that it may be a warning to others in this section who may be breaking the law, as Mr. Cascarden is determined to stop shooting of all kinds of game out of season, if it is possible.

TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS WE EXTEND
OUR CORDIAL WISHES FOR

A
Happy and Prosperous
New Year

Wright & Allen
THE CORNER HARDWARE

Miss R. Louisa Pound and Simon Winger, near Sparta, were married Christmas Day.

Jack Gould of Toronto, after an absence of about 10 years spent Xmas with his sister Mrs. Thody. Many of his young friends were glad to see him.

Methodist Church:—Rev. Dr. Moore general sec. of Temperance and Moral reform will speak in the Methodist Church next Sunday evening. Dr. Moore is considered one of the ablest speakers in the Dominion. Don't fail to hear him. Rev. J. E. Evens, of Conn. will preach in the morning.

On Sunday afternoon next, Dec. 31st Miss O. Norton, of Orwell is expected to address the Jaffa Methodist Sunday School to which everybody is invited.

On the following Monday evening the school will give a New Year's entertainment. A good program consisting of songs, drills, recitations and music. Rev. Mr. Foster of Orwell will be present. A. E. Doan chairman. Admission 15c.

FAIRVIEW

Mr. and Mrs. John Philmore spent Xmas visiting friends in St. Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ellis are at Port Rowan attending the funeral of Mr. Ellis mother at the time of writing.

Mr. Rowley Pressey of Union is here spending his holiday with his father and mother.

Mr. Emerson Vail of London is here at present visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Proctor spent Xmas at Port Burwell visiting friends. Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Miss Floodie Parker of Aylmer spent Xmas here with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Branton of the 9 con. spent Xmas with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Parker.

On account of the large amount of mail and bad roads the mail has been 1 hour late the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Firby of Corinth spent Xmas here with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Camerons.

Mr. Thomas Bingham has moved to Grovesend on Mr. M. E. Lyon's farm.

LIKE WILD FIRE

is the way our new Chocolates and Bou Bous, went at Christmas, we are working overtime to get a fresh supply for New Years.

Try A Box
SCHNEIDER'S CANDY
KITCHEN

London C

Aylmer Centre :

Teachers and other

and all particulars on app

D. H. V

Water