

WILLIAM FOREMAN &amp; CO. WILLIAM FOREMAN &amp; CO.

## A Rare Collection

Of French and British  
Black Dress Goods....

Positively, a richer collection of black dress goods, never entered a store. It's the largest collection that ever entered here at one time, but it's not quantity it's

## QUALITY

that is the standard here, and always has been. The best values equivalent money can buy. We invite your inspection of these handsome Black Dress Goods.

## Imported Direct

Rich, soft, clinging fabrics for Gownings, elegant Broadcloths, Empire Cloths, Cheviots, Ponno Cloths for Suits and Dresses.

William Foreman &amp; Co.

A General  
Favorite.Having secured the Ex-  
clusive Agency for the  
Celebrated High GradeQueen  
Quality  
Shoe

For Women

Which for Style, Quality, Fit, Good Work-  
manship and service to the wearer is unsur-  
passed. Ask to see QUEEN QUALITY  
Footwear. **Sold only by**

J. L. CAMPBELL,  
BOSTON SHOE STORECanned  
Plums

Genuine Lombard Plums put up  
in 2 lb. tins.

10c per Can  
3 Cans, 25c

Qt. jar Pure Maple Syrup, 30c.

Pt. jar Honey, 30c.

3 lb. Dried Apples, 25c.

Good Firm Pickles, 10c per bottle.

Pure Buckwheat Flour, 8 lbs for 25c.

S. E. Smith  
GrocerNext Burt's Drug Store  
King St. East.

## FARM FOR SALE

Farm for sale, being south half  
lot 6, Con. 2, Township of Camden, in  
the County of Kent, containing 100  
acres. This property is situated about  
2 1/2 miles west of Thamesville. The  
farm is well fenced, and about forty  
acres cleared, and the balance mostly  
pasture lands, soil a sandy loam.  
There is a frame barn and a good  
frame house upon the premises, also  
a good well of water, and about two  
acres set out in fruit trees. For  
terms, etc., apply to  
BANK OF MONTREAL,  
Chatham, Ont.

Special Sale of  
Ladies'  
Cashmere Hose

100 pair of regular size Hose, to be cleared  
out this week at per pair

25c.

Berlin Wools, 6c per ounce.  
Hollow Pile, for embroidering table  
linens, 25c dozen.  
Shaker Flannel Underwear, clearing  
this week at cost.

Mrs. J. E. Weldon  
King St.Ask  
Any of  
Your Friends

Where they get  
the nicest Rings,  
Jewelry, Watches,  
Chains, Etc., and  
cheapest in the  
city and they tell  
you at the sign of  
the Big Clock.

A. A. Jordan  
Sign of the Big Clock

## DAY'S DESPATCHES

## THE SPANISH CRISIS.

Madrid, March 15.—The Queen Regent has commissioned Senor Sagasta to form a new cabinet.

The Queen Regent only called Senor Sagasta to reconstruct the ministry after she found it impossible to induce the various leaders to attempt the formation of a coalition cabinet. The Pope has appealed to Her Majesty not to permit the recent decree, obliging religious congregations to comply with the laws of associations, to be put in force. The decree becomes operative March 21, so the new cabinet will be early confronted with a question admitted to be extremely difficult to settle.

## GAVE HIMSELF UP.

Finlay, Ohio, March 16.—Chas. Rollo, a suspect arrested by the police today, made a confession to Chief of Police Ramsey, in which he stated that he was until a year ago a market gardener in Batavia, N. Y., and that in a quarrel with his wife last August he had struck her a blow which had caused her death. For months he had fled from the police and had been dodging about the country. The strain is too much for him, and he is willing to suffer punishment. He is in a state of nervous collapse and is being held for developments.

## DEFENCE OF COLON.

Colon, Colombia, March 16.—All the approaches to Colon are now guarded by small detachments of troops. The government is throwing up embankments at certain advantageous points in the centre of the town, and from two hundred to three hundred troops are kept moving up and down the railway line. These are necessary precautions to avoid an insurgent surprise and attack similar to the one of last November. Beef, provisions, vegetables, etc., are becoming scarce in Panama, as small boats are no longer able to communicate with the neighboring towns. Panama is receiving its supply of beef from Cartagena by way of Colon.

DISTRICT DOINGS  
THAMESVILLE

Mar.—15 Peter Richards, of Walkerville, is spending a few days with his son Charles, who is in town yesterday. Ed. Chapman was in town yesterday. Mrs. C. Buller is quite ill. Mrs. Ellicott, of Florence, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Buller. W. V. Cryderman, of Northwood, is in town today. Carrier boys are not authorized to collect subscriptions. Our collector calls in each town once a month; if a subscriber wishes to pay his account before the collector calls, he must remit direct to The Planet Office, Chatham, as we will not be responsible for monies paid to carriers.

## WALLACEBURG.

Mar. 15.—Mr. McCoy spent yesterday in Chatham.

Lawyer Rogers was a Chatham visitor yesterday. Anniversary services will be held in Knox Church, to-morrow, Sunday, 16, Rev. Mr. Knowles of First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, will occupy the pulpit at both services. On the following evening a concert will be given by Mr. Harold Jarvis, of Detroit.

Miss Annie Dunlop spent yesterday in Chatham.

Mr. D. A. Gordon returned to-night after a business trip to Toronto.

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## LADIES' HOME JOURNAL.

Not one person in ten thousand of those who will read Helen Keller's own story on her life, when it begins in an early issue of The Ladies' Home Journal, will have the least conception of the amount of hard work required to write the story. First of all Miss Keller puts down her ideas "Braille," as the blind express it; that is to say, in the system of "points" raised on paper by means of a stylus and slate devised to aid the blind; these "points" being read afterward by passing the sensitive fingers over them. When all of this Braille work has been completed Miss Keller goes to her typewriter and uses these notes as a guide to the rewriting of the story.

## GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Wednesday, March 19th

THE FAVORITE

Humorist and

Buffo-Basso

J. Williams

..MACY..

Taking the place of Edward F. Elliott in the LYCEUM COURSE.

Prices 50c, 25c and 10c. Plan opens Tuesday morning.

(Coming Numbers in the Lyceum Course April 4—Miss Jessie MacLachlan (instead of the Knack Arden Concert Co.) April 11—Edmond Vance Cooke

## TAKES CHOICE

Garner, Who was Convicted of Assault Prefers Jail to Paying his Fine.

"I fine you \$5 and costs, \$8.50 in all, in default of payment one month in jail," was the decision of the court in regard to Fred. Garner, charged with assaulting a patent medicine vendor.

"I'll take the jail," was the emphatic reply of Mr. Garner. "I won't pay the fine. A man has a perfect right to defend himself in his own house."

"Your refusal to pay won't hurt me any," said Judge Houston easily. "Isn't that," responded the defendant. "I think I have a perfect right to defend myself in my own house."

"How long can I have to enter an appeal?" queried Garner.

"I never advise as to criminal proceedings," was the court's abrupt reply. "Neither do I object to a man going to jail."

"I don't object to justice but —" Garner was beginning when the Judge ordered no more and the man to be taken below.

## NEW CONDUCTOR

J. W. Wilson, basso, has taken over the leadership of the Christ Church choir. He occupied his new position for the first time yesterday and created a very favorable impression among the congregation. The music rendered yesterday was of a very high order and Mr. Wilson should feel very highly satisfied with his first Sunday's work.

Miss Belle Riddell sang a solo, "I'll go where you want me to go," and a quartette composed of Misses Oliver and Bogart, and Messrs. Polson and Wilson sang "Hymn of the Home-land."

Mr. Wilson is a singer of considerable experience and no doubt will soon succeed in building up one of the best choirs in the city.

## PASSED AWAY

W. H. Pardo, eldest brother of T. L. Pardo, M. P. P., died at his residence in Raleigh on Sunday, 16th, at the age of 71 years. The deceased has been in poor health for the past two or three years and has had a slight stroke of paralysis, but has been able to come into the city and attend to light duties on the farm until about three weeks ago, since which time he has been confined to his room. He had been a widower for the past 17 years. Five sons, Thomas, Charles, William and Owen, of Raleigh, and two daughters, Mrs. E. N. Heat, of Raleigh, Ky., and Mrs. A. B. Cook, of this city, survive him. W. H. Pardo was one of the most highly respected ratepayers in the Township, and was for many years an active member of the West Kent Agricultural Society, and was its president for several years.

The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock on Tuesday to the Union Methodist church, Raleigh, that is situated on a part of the Pardo homestead, a donation from the father of the deceased many years.

## AN OPTIMIST.

Hugh Montgomery, of Dover, says that you hear people complaining about bad roads but that, if they stopped to think they wouldn't say so much. For his part, he was perfectly willing to have bad roads. In the countries, where the roads were good, the land was not fertile and it was difficult to raise more than two different crops and even then the soil produced sparingly. In Kent, roads were bad at some seasons, but the land was exceedingly fertile and would raise anything.

## Reason Enough.

When one leaves the main lines of railroad, east or west, and travels, or tries to travel, on some road which merely serves a local purpose, he is likely to find prevailing a free and easy state of things as regards speed and schedule time. A Wyoming newspaper gives this account of a certain railroad "flyer" out that way:

"People never take this train except for journeys of considerable length, walking is as easy and much safer for short distances. On a recent occasion, when the movement of the train was even more deliberate than usual, a passenger went to the conductor and said:

"Ain't we going pretty slow?"

"Well," said the conductor, "we ain't flying, I'll admit."

"May I ask what is the trouble, then?"

"Ain't any trouble."

"Then why don't we go faster?"

"Well, I'll tell you, since you seem to be so inquisitive. Back here a piece, we found a fine two-year-old steer stuck in the trestle, and we stopped and helped him out. Now the rules of the road are that in such cases the animal belongs to the company."

"But how does that make you run slow?"

"Run slow? Why, that 'ere steer ain't used to being led, and when we hitched him on behind the rear car he didn't walk up very well. I'm doing all I can—got the brakeman punching him from behind with an umbrella, and an ear of corn tied to the bell rope. But if you think I'm going to yank the horns off, as good a steer as there is in the state, why, you're awfully mistaken, that's all!"

Every man bears his own burden, but not every one has the blessing of bearing another.

Courage, like cowardice, is undoubtedly contagious, but some persons are not liable to catch it.

## A SEASON OF VARIETY

As the new stocks come in it grows more evident that this season's clothing fabrics are to be well spiced with variety, certain colors and styles of finish are at the front, but Fashion is limited on the whole only by the dictates of good taste.

In worsted suitings gray still dominates, not the true grays of last season, but gray that hints of color, and oftenest of blue. Brown holds its own, and certain brownish green shades will be popular especially in the summer tweeds.

There's a close understanding between vest and tie fashions. This season's high cut vests mean smaller neckwear—or vice versa. More narrow four-in-hands will be seen, and puffs are mostly slimmer.

Thornton &amp; Douglas

## The Letter-Box

## ABOUT FRANCE.

Editor Chatham Planet:

Dear Sir,—The notion is deeply rooted among us that France is a decaying nation, owing to the decline in their birthrate and the practical cessation of increase in population. But there is a little article by M. J. Holt Schooling in the "Contemporary Review," which seems to show that England has quite as much reason for uneasiness in this respect as France. It is known that, during the last ten or twelve years, there has been a marked fall in English birthrate. But it is not generally shown that the fall in the rate is proceeding more rapidly in England than in any other country. The average yearly birthrate in England in the period 1880-84 was 32.3 per 1,000 of population. In France at the same time it was 24.8. In the period 1890-94 it had fallen in England to 29.6, and in France to 22.5, and for the next five years to England 28.1, and France 22.0, so that the rate fell five points in England during the last five years, as compared with three points in France. The rate, of course, is falling throughout Europe, even in Germany the most prolific country of all. But while in Germany during the 20 years it has

fallen only from 37.1 to 36.1, a decrease of ten in England the decrease for the same period is 32.

Mr. Schooling brings out another fact, which is of even more significance, at any rate so far as England and Germany are concerned. The deathrate of all three countries, like the birthrate, has fallen during the above period. England has had by far the lowest deathrate, and, indeed, it has steadily declined throughout the period, but the deathrate in Germany has declined to a much greater degree than in either France or England—45 in Germany, as compared with 16 in England and 17 in France. The consequence is that while the annual excess of births over deaths has greatly increased in Germany during the 20 years, it has fallen more with England than with France. In the period 1880-84 the yearly excess of births over deaths per 1,000 of population was, in England 128, in Germany 113, and France 24. In the period 1895-99 the corresponding figures—England 112, Germany 148, and France 13. Thus in Germany there is a yearly rise of 35 in the excess of births over deaths for the latter, as compared with the former period; in England on the other hand, there is a fall of 16 in this excess, while in France the fall is only 11. All these figures show very clearly that, as Mr. Schooling puts it, "of the three nations Germany only has increased her natural recuperative force; both England and France have declined in this respect, and England's fall is greater than that of France."

Yours, etc., I. I. WILDE.

Chatham, March 17.

# SURPRISE SOAP

is

## PURE SOAP

Pure Hard Soap.

## CHATHAM'S MILLINERY STORE

Our Store is crowded to the doors with  
**Spring Goods**  
and Novelties for our Spring Opening. Our display consists of the finest importations of models and superb creations from our own designers, commencing  
**March 19th, and following days.**

C. A. Cooksley - King St., Opp. Market

Mother's  
Picture !!!

If "Mother" goes have you got her picture? If you haven't don't you think you would regret it, supposing anything happened to her? It will be a very long regret and impossible to rectify then.

Better let us make a negative of her and we will do her justice—that we guarantee. We pride ourselves on our "elderly" portraits.

Westlake Bros.,  
Fifth St., Chatham