

ST. JOHN STAR, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1905.

## ROMANCE OF A THIRD-CLASS CARRIAGE.

A TRUE STORY

Having business to transact in Manchester on Christmas Eve, 1897, I travelled by the 10 a. m. train from Cheshire (L. and N. W. Railway). It was a pouring wet day, the sky one sheet of thick grey, a thoroughly uncomfortable day for even a short railway journey. Christmas Eve although it was, the Christmas spirit scarcely seemed there. The train stopped at every station, picking up passengers. There were already nine in the same compartment as myself—all ladies—three of whom appeared to be sisters, and they begged the weary hours by lamenting that they should have had the misfortune on this one occasion to be obliged to travel third class, instead of in the customary first-class carriage, their general remarks and conduct pointing to the fact that whatever their rank, their manners were decidedly below third class. The other occupants were apparently market women, with baskets and bundles, and they carried on a conversation about the prices of butter, eggs, and the usual goose and turkey.

At — Station a little old woman with a bulky paper parcel simply tied with rather thin string came to the carriage door, and said, "Will one of you take my parcel." The three haughty young ladies in question being near, the door than myself, I naturally expected one at least would relieve the old woman of her load. But no! With a sneer, one said, "No fear of our touching your dirty parcel," whereupon, the time being limited, I rose from the further end, took the parcel, and helped the old woman to the seat. I had just vacated, and two stations further on two of the market women got out, so I had a comfortable seat beside the old woman, who asked me if I would tie up her parcel with a piece of stronger string, which she produced from a black "pocket" which she wore under her rusty old black dress. I did so—and the sneering glances and uttering remarks of the three before mentioned, who commented upon the impudence of "the old wretch," as they called her. As we neared the tunnel through which we were to pass just before reaching the Exchange Station, the old body asked me, rather anxiously I thought, if I knew Manchester well. My reply was that I had only been in that town three times, but as my visits had all been within the last few weeks, and on each occasion I had had a few hours to spare, I might say I knew my way about the principal streets, so she asked me if I would accompany her to Mr. —'s office, as she wished to call there. She said, "He is a lawyer, and it is somewhere in the same direction; so I asked a policeman, standing under a lamp in Deansgate, where this office was. He directed me to an office less than five minutes walk from where he stood. So my old friend and I went there, and I waited outside while her business was done, whereupon she asked me to go with her to

a well-known jeweller, which I did telling her I would wait for her, and she said she would then trouble me no more. She went inside, but before doing so she dived into her "black pocket," and brought out a crumpled bundle, tied with string, and, to my eyes they looked rather like banknotes, which rather surprised me, as "poverty" was writ large from her old-fashioned dusty black bonnet to her much patched elastic-side boots, and the umbrella she carried owned more than one "ventilator," but, truly, "appearances are deceptive," for the assistant in the shop came to the door, and called me inside, when, to my astonishment, the old lady asked me if I would help her to select "a necklace for her niece," and the one she held in her hand was £117. Surely, I thought, she must be very weak in her mind, but I could see the salesman's face undergo a great change when she produced a card from her pocket—he showed the greatest deference to her. She quickly stopped that, however, by saying—"Not one word more, young man. I will conclude my business in writing. Give me your pencil and note." Whatever she wrote, it was evident that her motive was to conceal her identity from me, at any rate. We discussed the merits of various necklaces, and finally decided on an emerald one, with bars of gold between the stones. After it was duly wrapped up she turned to me and said—"Now, my dear, I will let you go in a moment almost, but first I want you to tell me which watch you think a young friend of mine would prefer. She is about your own age, and it is a watch to wear every day she needs, and I want you to choose for her." Three were shown us first, one in the shape of a heart, with turquoise set in the back, another also very ornamental and the third was an ordinary-shaped solid gold watch, finely chased, but with nothing in the least showy or superfluous about it, and this one I told the old lady I considered would suit her young friend best. She settled the matter with the salesman, again in writing, then turned to me and asked me when I would be in Manchester again. I told her that I expected I should be there in about three weeks' time. "Now," she said, "I want you to promise me that you will call at this ship. I have instructed the salesman to put up a small present for you. It is only a very trifle, but don't forget to call for it. Along with it I ask you to accept something far greater, and that is an old woman's thanks for your kindness and consideration while thinking that she was poor and needy. It is Christmas Eve and I could not resist trying the experiment. You have yourself to thank, as those three young misses have themselves to thank for anything I may give either you or them. Be thankful while you live that you are not too stylish and up-to-date to remember to respect old age, and keep a civil tongue in your head. I took their address, although

they did not know, and will write to the three enclosing my card, for I cannot resist the temptation of letting them know the sequel to their conduct. "Now, good-bye; you will never see me again. I don't wish you to know who I am, but when next you call here leave your name and address at the office of my solicitor. He will never give you my name, for I forbid it. A carriage is coming for me here in fifteen minutes. Do not wait to see it or make any inquiries, but do as I wish and you will never regret it." She then kissed my hand and repeated the good-bye.

On the 23rd of the next month, January, 1898, I called at the jeweller's shop. A small box was handed to me, and what do you think it contained? The very watch I had helped to select. From beginning to end I did nothing in the least praiseworthy, was no more than ordinarily polite. I felt sorry for the way the three girls treated her, and to show I was sorry that a poor old woman should be so snubbed I gave her any assistance she asked for, and I believe the bit of it all which her most satisfaction was the letter to our three fellow-travellers telling them what they had missed. Whoever she may be, wherever she may live, if still alive, she came into my life and passed out of it within three hours at the most on that wet, cold, and cheerless Christmas Eve. But the watch and the lesson her conduct teaches, "May they long survive." H. H. P.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Called King's Attention to Condition of the Army.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The house of commons this afternoon and tonight debated Mr. Morton's amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, calling the attention of the King to the condition of the army, which, the amendment asserts, shows "negligence and mismanagement by the ministers."

After a number of speeches for and against the amendment, War Secretary Arnold-Forster answered the critics of the ministers at considerable length, defending his conduct of affairs. He traversed all the allegations of the amendment, and said that the efficiency of the army for the defence of the Empire had increased, and that the total strength of the army had been increased since the Boer war by 35,000 men, while the estimates had been reduced \$5,000,000. It was the intention of the war office, he said, to bring the army up to the needs of the country; anything less than that, he added, means waste of money.

## SIR HENRY IRVING

Has Suffered a Relapse and Cancelled Provincial Tour.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Sir Henry Irving, who recently had a severe chill at Wolverhampton, has suffered a slight relapse and has cancelled the remainder of his provincial tour. His physicians have imperatively ordered him not to act for at least two months.

## SOLEMN CEREMONY.

Funeral of Grand Duke Sergius at Moscow.

MOSCOW, Feb. 23.—The solemn ceremony of blessing the remains of Grand Duke Sergius was performed at 10 o'clock today in the midst of the tolling of bells from all the churches and monasteries of the ancient capital. Immense crowds thronged the open squares in front of the palace, and there was a considerable display of troops in the streets. Grenadiers of the Kieff regiment furnished the guard at the Choudoff Monastery, which was the scene of the funeral services.

MOSCOW, Feb. 23.—The coffin stood upon a catafalque covered with cloth of gold, while below on cushions rested the orders of the dead man. The coffin itself was covered with cloth of silver, trimmed with ermine. The mangled body lay in state, dressed in full uniform, but a veil of fine lace covered the mutilated face. A gloved hand held an Ikon of St. Peter's. When the Imperial party entered the church, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, the widow, took her place at the foot of the coffin. She was the centre of all others. Through the ordeal she displayed the same fortitude she showed yesterday when she followed the dead coachman to the grave. The Metropolitan read the prayer for absolution, and all present knelt, many of those in the rear of the church prostrating themselves. When the time came to kiss the dead, according to the custom of the orthodox faith, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth almost broke down. Her tall, slight figure shook and swayed, and she was about to fall when Grand Duke Constantine gave her support, and she kissed the uniform on the left breast thrice. When this ordeal was over, the coffin was lifted up and borne on the shoulders of the Grand Dukes and aide-de-camps attached to Grand Duke Sergius' household, and was carried in silent procession, preceded by priests in golden vestments, to the Church of St. Andrew's, within the monastery. There a brief service of consignment to the grave took place, after which the body was placed in a vault, where it will remain until removed to St. Petersburg.

## IROQUOIS THEATRE FIRE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—Investigation of the Iroquois theatre fire was begun anew by the grand jury. The complaint is identical with that presented one year ago, when indictments were returned, but which were recently quashed as faulty.

CHATHAM, N. B., Feb. 23.—John Wilson, the fifth and only surviving son of Alex. Wilson, pilot of this town, died tonight at his father's residence after an illness of less than two days.

## GREAT ANXIETY

Over the Strike Situation in Warsaw.

WARSAW, Feb. 23.—The situation here is causing the greatest anxiety in all circles. The assistant to the governor general today frankly admitted that the government is at a loss to know what to do. Alarming reports are current concerning the intentions and plans of the revolutionary party, and March 4th is awaited with much apprehension.

The strike agitation is spreading in every direction, and bank clerks, journalists, office servants, printers, pressmen, drivers, stationary engineers and mechanics in general, are all threatening to strike. Notwithstanding all this, the situation in the city is remarkably quiet. The Vienna railway is still completely at a standstill, and there appears to be no hope of a speedy settlement of the difficulty. The directors had a long session today, but were unable to find a solution. They will renew the conference tomorrow. Western Poland is completely cut off from communication with middle and western Europe except by telephone; no mails are arriving or departing; the authorities apparently preferring to hold the mails rather than send them by circuitous routes. Commercial interests and private individuals are much inconvenienced.

The city is threatened with a coal famine, the entire supply of coal coming from the district of Dombrova over the Vienna road. The governor general has offered to supply military men to work the trains, but this is impracticable, as the strikers have destroyed switches. Many through passengers from Moscow and St. Petersburg are detained here and great quantities of perishable goods from France and Italy are being spoiled by the delay.

A telephone message from Lodz says the workmen in most of the factories there have returned to their labors; but as the big mills are only paying the old wages while the pay of the men in the small mills has been increased, it is feared that the improvement is only temporary.

## WILL TAKE A REST.

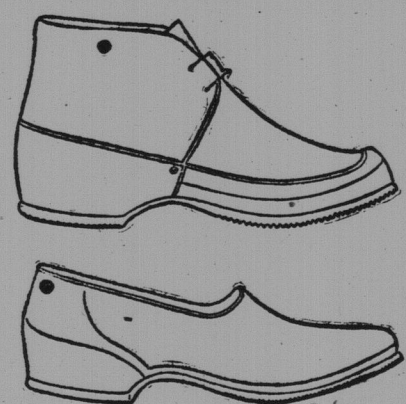
OTTAWA, Feb. 23.—Dr. Daniel leaves this afternoon on a brief visit to St. John.

It is stated here on reliable authority that David Russell has decided to retire from active work for the next twelve months, some of which he will spend abroad. Mr. Russell has led a strenuous life for some years and needs a rest. Senator Ellis arrived today.

FOR THE

## PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC

PUNCHED



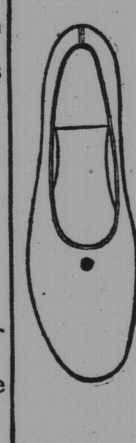
RUBBERS

A hole PUNCHED in a Rubber indicates that it is a

Factory Imperfect

or Out of Style

or in some way inferior and liable to prove unsatisfactory.



In order that these may be distinguished from perfect goods they are PUNCHED as indicated in illustration shown herewith.

Purchasers of Rubber Footwear should see that goods represented to them as perfect, and up-to-date, are Not Punched.

## PUNCHED RUBBERS

## IN THE COUNTY COURT CHAMBERS.

In the case of Charles W. Peck v. James Smith, both of Albert Co., M. G. Teed, on behalf of the plaintiff, made application on affidavits for the examination of the defendant. Miles B. Dixon appeared for the defendant, and objected that the affidavits did not show that any execution had been taken out by the plaintiff since 1889, and therefore the defendant might now have property to satisfy an execution. The objection was overruled. On the suggestion of Mr. Dixon the examination was postponed until the next regular session of the Albert Co. court at Hopewell.

## MRS. DR. ELLISON DEAD.

W. O. Raymond received a telegram last night from Dr. R. J. Ellison of Bear River, stating that his wife had died at 2.30 o'clock yesterday. Mrs. Ellison was formerly Miss Fannie Minnette of St. John, and her father was at one time city surgeon. She was 70 years of age. She will be buried at Bear River. Mrs. Ellison leaves three grandchildren, Miss Ellison, Miss Hamilton and Reginald Ellison. The latter was for a time at the Rothersey school for boys and Miss Hamilton was also at Rothersey for a term.

"For God, for Russia, for my brother and for myself,"

IN

"Courier of the Czar,"

STARTING IN

Saturday's STAR.