

England for the book, and becoming acquainted with the author on a visit to London, a second and a third series were demanded and published and many editions followed. As fast as they were published in Nova Scotia and in England they were pirated in the United States and reprinted again and again until Sam Slick became a household word wherever the English language was spoken. It went even further. Several editions (in English) were published in France and had a large sale there. Indeed, even now, or at least until a short time ago, a selection from the "Clock Maker" was published in French school books as a sample of English prose.

"The Clockmaker" was translated into German and is said to have been one of the favorite books of Prince Bismark.

The scheme of the Clockmaker is very simple. The squire, the recorder of the story, on a fine horse, is travelling through Colchester County in Nova Scotia, when he is overtaken by "a tall thin man, with hollow cheeks and bright twinkling black eyes," riding a good bay horse. The Squire and he fall into conversation. They each, in a round about way endeavour to discover the other's occupation. Soon the Squire tires of his companion and endeavours to ride away from him, but he finds the stranger's horse a better one than his own, and not only is he mortified at this, but his feelings are further hurt by the stranger offering him some advice as to how his horsemanship could be improved. Further conversation ensues in which the Squire learns that the stranger is Samuel Slick of Slickville, Connecticut, a travelling salesman of wooden clocks. He finds him an agreeable companion and they agree to travel together.

They pass through various parts of the Province and their conversation takes many forms. Sometimes they discuss the localities through which they pass and the idiosyncracies of the inhabitants; sometimes the respective merits of England, her colonies and the United States is the topic. Sometimes they dwell on the wonderful resources of the Province and the failure of its people to profit by them; serious conversation being intermingled with witty stories, pithy sayings and drolery of all kinds on the part of the Clockmaker. The life of the Province of the time is reflected in the book as in a mirror. The first series was so well received that it was followed by a third, in which the Squire and his friend travel into the New England States and end up in Slickville where the Squire meets the Reverend Mr. Hopewell, Sam's mentor and friend, a most lovable old clergyman, who has great admiration for Old England and laments the evil days, from a religious and moral point of view, into which the New England States have fallen since the Revolution. Here Sam finds that he has been appointed an Attache to the United States Legation in London and the series ends.

When the third series of the Clockmaker was completed, Haliburton dropped Sam Slick for a time and wrote some historical works and the "Letter Bag of the Great Western" but finding a demand for Sam, he told the story of "The Attache." The Squire who had travelled with Sam Slick in Nova Scotia and the United States, and recorded his sayings in "the

Clockmaker" and whose name is not therein mentioned, now turns out to be "Thomas Poker, Esquire, a native of Nova Scotia and a retired member of the Provincial Bar." Mr. Hopewell accompanies the Squire and Sam Slick to England. The poor old man in his latter days has been dismissed from his parish and, worst of all, has been succeeded in his charge by a Unitarian. On arrival Sam takes up his duty as Attache to the American Legation.

This gives an opportunity to discuss English life and the politics of the time, Sam telling his inimitable stories and poking fun at the English; Mr. Hopewell glorifying England's Church, State and Society; and Mr. Poker acting as Chorus and recorder. So cleverly is the story told, that some of the reviewers thought it a recital of fact and that Sam Slick was a real person occupying the position mentioned, and seriously urged the improbability of one of Sam's character obtaining entree to the society he describes. However, the first series was popular enough to demand a second one.

After having described the adventures of Sam Slick as Attache in England as long as seemed desirable, Haliburton turned his attention to other books but the public insisted on more "SAM." So Haliburton took up the story and on the return of the hero to the United States he is sent by the President as a Commissioner to report to him privately on the shore fisheries of the Maritime Provinces. Accordingly he takes passage on a fishing schooner, "The Black Hawk," for Nova Scotia, where he travels along the southern shore, visiting old friends, flirting with the girls, telling stories, describing the scenery and generally having a good time. He has an opportunity to sketch not only the settlers of English descent, but also the descendants of the German and French-Huguenot settlers in and about Lunenburg, and the French-Acadians at other points, and to tell stories illustrating the peculiarities of them all. This trip runs through four volumes, the first two being called "Wise Saws and Modern Instances," and the last two, "Nature and Human Nature." Here we bid goodbye to Sam Slick. Not that Haliburton ceased to write. Even after he went to reside in England he wrote a series of Sketches for a Dublin newspaper, which were afterwards published as his last book, "The Season Ticket."

The character of "The Clockmaker" naturally fits the time when the sketches were written. Connecticut at that time manufactured large quantities of wooden clocks, and some of our own times will remember in their earlier years the wooden clocks standing on the mantels of the farmhouses. They were not bad clocks, indeed, considering the material of which the works were made, and the time they lasted, some of them at least must have been excellent specimens of handiwork. Numerous salesmen travelled through the New England and the British American Colonies selling them. These smooth-tongued persons correspond to the book agents and stock salesmen of today. The object was to sell under any circumstances, or as they say now, to get the victim "To sign on the dotted line." The average farmer in Nova Scotia, of the time, was not rich and many could ill afford the luxury

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