

PROFESSIONAL BEGGARS

And Their Earnings.

BY CHARLES ROBINSON IN THE ANGELUS MAGAZINE.

WHATEVER our great cities may be to the poor, honest and industrious workingman, they are as lands flowing with milk and honey to the professional beggar.

The occupation of begging is not altogether so unpleasant as it appears. Inured to the open air these beggars are far more robust than the pent-up factory hand or shop girl.

The professional beggar is not a modern invention by any means. Readers of the Spectator will recall "Scarecrow," the famous London beggar, who having disabled himself in his right leg, asked alms all day in order to get a warm supper at night.

Walford relates that George IV., when Prince of Wales, once attended a beggar's carnival in London incognito. He had not been long present before the chairman, addressing the company and pointing to the Prince, said: "I call on that gentleman with a shirt for a song."

To-day nearly all the professional beggars in London—and their name is legion—emanate from two or three common lodging houses, the most populous of which is known as the "Dispensary."

A report was recently published in England containing a graphic description of the gloomy house in which are recorded the biographies of all the leading professional beggars in London.

Mendicancy would appear to be even more profitable in Paris than it is in London, and frequent cases are reported of Parisian beggars leaving substantial legacies behind them to their next of kin.

In Paris, as is well known, mendicancy has been raised into a scientific profession, the members of which hold regular weekly conferences at which the routes to be followed by the guild are mapped out by a standing committee.

proprietors of certain hotels and pensions at smart Paris seaside resorts assume that their guests might be disposed to give alms if an opportunity were afforded them, and inasmuch as they cannot very well do the begging themselves, they engage professionals, whom they allow to solicit alms in their grounds, the beggars in return paying the landlords one-half of their daily receipts.

In addition to the journal already referred to, the beggars of Paris have a regular "Directory of Benefactors," published in two editions—a small one at sixty cents and a large one for \$1.20. These books give the names of persons known to be benevolent; also their religious and political faith, the hour at which they are most likely to be found at home, etc., etc.

The real rents of New York undoubtedly suffer more from the tribe of beggars than those of any other city in this country. Professional mendicants make Gotham their happy hunting ground, and they make their appearance periodically, and then disappear for a time, but they invariably return to New York sooner or later.

Professional beggars change their address to avoid detection. They pass under various aliases and journey from city to city. Among the records of the Charity Organization Society at New York may be found the history of one old man who collected nearly eighteen thousand dollars by a lifetime of industrious begging.

There appeared upon the streets of New York some three years since a dignified, mild-mannered old lady with a delicate looking daughter. They were both extremely refined in appearance and were clearly in desperate and unforeseen straits of which they seemed very reluctant to speak.

In the good old days when every town sought to take care of its own folk, the beggar who came from afar and was not a handicraftsman was promptly put in the stocks, or else, having been roughly brought before the Justice of the Peace and ordered to be carefully whipped, was started on his way towards other where—all of which was profoundly picturesque and patriarchal.

As the law now stands hereabout persons who beg can be punished for the offense. Experience teaches that a man who will make a business of begging will not hesitate to steal. Indeed, it is estimated that at least ninety-five out of every hundred habitual mendicants are also habitual rogues.

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For balance of this month, every FANCY LAMP in stock at a SPECIAL DISCOUNT.

AND SO ON.

Three new shipments have lately been added to our stock, all subject to the discount.

A. T. WILEY & CO., 1803 Notre Dame Street, 2341 St. Catherine Street.

MARKET REPORTS

BONSECOURS MARKET.

The attendance of farmers at Bonsecours market this morning was small. Oats by the load were offered at 65c per bag and in a small way at 70c, while buckwheat sold at 95c to \$1.05 per bag.

Table with columns for 'FLOUR AND GRAIN', 'VEGETABLES', and 'MEATS'. Lists various items like Flour, Oats, Corn, Potatoes, etc. with prices.

Table listing prices for various fruits and vegetables: Lettuce, Radishes, Artichokes, Tomatoes, Spinach, Mint, Cucumbers, Asparagus.

Table listing prices for poultry: Spring chickens, Large chickens, Medium chickens, Fowls, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Cock turkeys.

Table listing prices for dairy products: Cream butter, Good dairy butter, Mild cheese, Strong cheese, Eggs, Honey, Maple sugar, Maple syrup.

Table listing prices for meats: Beef, Mutton, Lamb, Veal, Pork, Ham, Lard, Sausages, Bacon.

Table listing prices for fish: Pike, Haddock, Bullheads, Whitefish, Cod, Dory, Halibut, Trout, Smelts, Mackerel, Finnan haddies, Fresh salmon, Sturgeon.

Live Stock Markets.

MONTREAL, May 26.—The feature in live stock export circles since our last has been the cable advices received from France in regard to the steamship Sarnia's cargo, the first shipment made this season to the above port.

A private cable from London today reported a sale of a bunch of cattle at £13 18s per head, which figure the shipper said netted a loss of \$10 per head. Cables from Liverpool were also received, giving sales at prices which made considerable losses to shippers.

The supply of cattle on spot was large, and the tone of the market was weaker owing to the limited demand, and some purchases were made for export account at 2 1/2c per pound.

Toronto, May 26.—There was slightly firmer tone to the Toronto cattle market today. Export cattle were quiet. Dealers bought cautiously. Prices were no higher, best selling at 3c, and some 2 1/2c. Butchers' cattle were dull.

FAILURES IN THE UNITED STATES

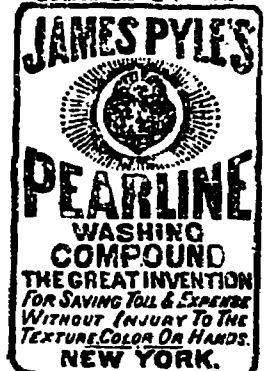
In the last quarterly report of Dunn & Co. appears the following:

Table showing financial data for failures in the United States, including columns for Year, No., Total, Liabilities, and Assets.



National economy.

There's room for a little more of it. Too many women are wasting time and strength over a wash-board; rubbing their clothes to pieces; wasting their money. You'd be astonished if you could figure up the actual money saving in a year by the use of Pearline.



Send it Back. It's too much to hope for—but the whole country would be the richer for it.

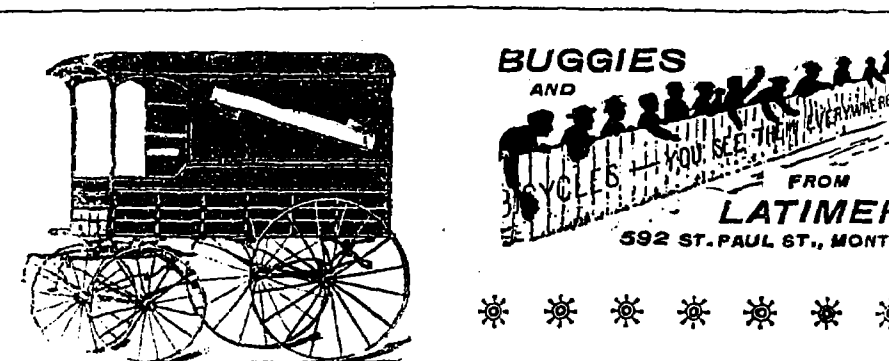
MONEY TO LOAN.

\$10,000, in sums of \$2,000. Security required. Best Mortgage on Real Estate in City. Apply to C. A. McDONNELL, Accountant and Estate Agent, No 140 St. James Street.

MILLION A Popular Proprietary Medicine Sold at Retail for Five Cents a Package—the first experimental step in a direction that may lead to a revolution in the trade.

A New York company of manufacturing chemists, the Ripans Chemical Company, placed upon the market about five years ago a medicinal tablet or "table" composed of compressed powdered preparations of certain medicinal drugs which have been ascertained to be of more general use than any other.

Being thoughtful and painstaking observers of the human condition that sweep over the commercial world, and careful to note every circumstance having a bearing upon the successful prosecution of their trade, the managers of the company have noted that there is a present insistent demand for a lower price for every article that enters into the household.



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