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## SOME NOTED MISERS

Starved to Death Surrounded By Bags of Gold

(London Saturday Journal)

It is one of the laws governing the workings of poetic justice that a man wallowing in any one of the greater vices which beset humanity shall be allowed to work out his own destruction. And particularly noticeable is this in the case of the miser. He starts on his get-rich-at-any-cost path, denying himself the little luxuries of life, and ends, alas! in beggary and even the necessities. The one inevitable result is that in nine cases out of every ten he dies of starvation.

A striking example is the death a few weeks ago of a man at Hanwell. Once a compositor, the evidence at the inquest showed that since the death of his father (a cab proprietor) he had lived an altogether eccentric life. He never spoke to his neighbors and refused to see his friends and acquaintances. Every day, wet or fine, he made a journey to the nearest baker's shop to buy a loaf of bread. This, with a small quantity of milk, left regularly at his door, was his only food. Yet, on his death, brought about by starvation, gold and silver was found in his house to the extent of several pounds, while his bank book showed deposits amounting to nearly £500.

One of the most remarkable misers was a man named Daniel Dancer. He was a miser by heredity. Dancer was born at Harrow and inherited most of his father's savings. He lived in a house which stood amid eighty acres of rich meadow-land, dotted by clusters of fine old oaks.

But the soil was never tilled, just as the house was never mended or repaired; so that finally it fell into decay. As the years went on, the gates rotted from their hinges and the broken window panes were stuffed with filthy rags, about the house the untrammelled hedges grew and grew until they made the deeply shaded lawn a place of gloom.

Dancer was so stingy that he very seldom washed his hands and face; and when he did so he never used either soap or towels, but dabbed at his wrinkles with bits of rag. The tatters which he called clothes were held around his body by a band of hay and his legs likewise were swathed in hay and straw.

At last he boarded up every door and window of his house, save one window on the upper story, which he used to enter by means of a ladder like a second Robinson Crusoe.

Yet even Daniel Dancer had some virtues. He was honest in his dealings with others; and, as the event showed, he had a sense of gratitude.

A neighbor of his, one Lady Tempest, had been kind to him during an illness; she had begged him to purchase some of the necessities of life. This he refused to do. He would not even give up the heap of sacks on which he had slept for years, and which had never been aired or washed.

Lady Tempest, pitying the old man, sent him a decent bed. It made a great impression on his mind; so that when he was actually dying he sent for her, and handed her a folded document.

"Here is my will," said he. "I have left everything to you."

Soon after he died, and when he had been buried a search was made both in his house and in the outbuildings. Under a heap of refuse the searchers found £20,000 in gold. In the stable an old jacket, which was nailed to the manger, had £25 in one of its pockets. In the house a teapot yielded up Bank of England notes to the value of £100. In many rooms there were cracked jugs filled with gold and silver. His chimney alone held £2,500.

A very different type of miser was John Elwes, who began his life as a spendthrift. He, too, inherited the strain of avarice which finally appeared in his nature for his uncle was a noted miser, and his mother starved herself to death although she had £15,000 in her possession. She had, however, given her son an excellent education, and when he came of age

he inherited from her and from his uncle sums of money amounting to £400,000.

Elwes was peculiar in two respects. First, because he struggled and pinched to save pennies so far as his personal comfort was concerned, while at the same time he squandered thousands of pounds in gambling.

He was a member of some of the most fashionable clubs in London, which, however, he frequented solely for the sake of gambling. He used to boast that few men played more recklessly than he. On one occasion he even sat at the gaming table for two whole days and a night with a Duke, and when at last he retired out of the room exhausted he was the loser of a small fortune.

All this time his personal expenses were less than those of a poor clerk. When he went into the country he hired a room in a farmer's cottage and dressed in the meanest possible clothing. He was fond of hunting, yet he tried to hunt at slight expense. He made his huntsmen milk the cows and cook his meals.

As he grew old, he gave up hunting, and practised a still more rigid economy. He owned many houses in London and would occupy whichever one of them happened to be empty. His sole furniture consisted of two beds and two chairs. His sole attendant was an old woman.

He died at the home of his son, supposing that he had lost a small money-bag which he had brought with him, and which he declared, with tears, was all the money he had in the world. After his death, however, his estate was found to be worth nearly a million pounds.

The records of avarice now and then show gleams of humor. They appear in the case of an English lady, Miss Elizabeth Bolaine of Canterbury, who had been well brought up, and was a sister-in-law to a countess.

Miss Bolaine was a born miser. Personally, she was attractive, and received a good many offers of marriage, but she always tilted any one in favor of another who had a little more money. Finally, suitors became scarce, and finally one was suggested that no man should propose to her unless she would give a bond of two thousand pounds, to be forfeited if she failed to marry.

At last she accepted a man who was much older than herself, but who appealed to her fancy because he could wash and iron clothes and keep the house clean, and thus save her the expense of a servant-maid. Also, he was an obliging creature as to his food, for he would eat anything from mouldy crusts to tainted meat.

This strange couple set up a carriage such as it was. It was drawn by two clumsy farm horses. The coachman's livery was a moth-eaten military uniform. When he drove out for any distance, the top of the carriage was covered with a host of pickle jars, garden tools, a ladder, and a warning of a servant-maid.

It happened finally that, during an excursion one of the horses dropped dead from starvation. Immediately Miss Bolaine—for so she called herself even after marriage—descended from the carriage, and ordered the cook to sell a portion of the meat, who happened

to be passing, sold her carriage to another person, and then finished her journey on foot.

When she died she provided in her will for a most gorgeous funeral and directed that a costly monument should be erected over her remains.

Perhaps the meanest and most contemptible miser who ever lived was an Englishman named Thomas Cooke. His wealth and his shameful penury made him known all over Great Britain.

When a boy Cooke was employed in a factory but later obtained a small position in the Excise, coming to London with five shillings in his pocket. He formed the acquaintance of a brewer, into whose good graces he wormed his way, until he had learned all the details of the business. At the brewer's death, Cooke told the widow that the business could be carried on profitably only if she married him, since he alone knew all the secrets of the trade. This he persuaded her to do, and thus Cooke found himself possessor of a comfortable fortune.

Money begets the love of money, so that Cooke now showed his miserly instincts to the full. He dispensed with all servants, cut down the food of his household to the starvation point and deprived his wife of so many necessities that before long she died.

Cooke, indeed, attempted to feed himself without paying anything for it. He used to make visits to persons whom he knew, tugging his calls so as to be asked to dinner or to supper.

Then he would throw out hints to the effect that he had just made his will and that he had not forgotten his enterprising. He pretended to be very anxious to get the exact names of the children, which he would write down in memorandum book. Naturally he was very well fed on such occasions.

At other times he would pretend to fall down in a fit at the door of some handsome home, into which he would be carried and kindly treated. On the following day he used to call and thank his benefactors for their benevolence, declaring that they had saved his life and that some day they would receive a rich reward.

When he died he was eighty-six years of age; and though he had practically done no work he was found to have £175,000.

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## UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR SHAREHOLDERS

Call on Double Liability on Their Shares is to be Made

FALCONER COMING

TORONTO, July 10.—The shareholders of the defunct Ontario Bank will be unpleasantly surprised to learn that a call on the double liability on their shares is to be made at an early date.

A. B. Morins, solicitor for the liquidators, said the call would be made probably towards the end of September. Nothing is likely to be done until after the long vacation period. After proper legal steps have been taken, a meeting of the shareholders and creditors will be called, at which an announcement of the call will be made.

"How much is it likely to be?" "I really cannot say. Of course, if you wish to make a guess at it you

might not be far wrong in figuring at somewhere between 25 and 50 per cent."

President Falconer, of Toronto University, left this morning for Nova Scotia, where he will spend two months' vacation.

## NEW SERVICE TO THE WEST INDIES

MONTREAL, July 10.—Hon. Joseph Chose of Jamaica, one of the leading members of the Council of the Governor of the Colony, is in conference with the C. P. R. authorities with the object of inducing them to establish a line of steamers between Montreal and the West Indies.

A well informed member of the C. P. R. headquarters staff stated today that it was not improbable the company would establish such a line, but as both President Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and Vice-President McNeill are away, nothing definite can be said on the subject.

DEXTER, Me., July 10.—Richard Alexander, the New York broker, who shot himself at Dover, is still alive and holding his own tonight. Notwithstanding the rally the doctors express no hope of his recovery.

## 15-YEAR-OLD BOY TRIES TO PASS RAISED CHECK

BRATTLEBORO, Vt., July 10.—Leon Bushee, a 15 year old boy, was arrested in the Vermont National Bank by Deputy Sheriff C. I. Knapp, the boy having attempted to secure money on a check which had been raised.

A warrant for forgery was served upon him, but as the municipal court did not have the authority to sentence him on that charge another warrant, charging petit larceny, was served upon him, to which he pleaded guilty, and Judge E. W. Gibson sentenced him to Vergennes for the rest of his minority.

A medical paper says that in railway collisions nearly all the passengers who escape the bad effects of shaking and concussion

# The Enormous Demand WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED FOR KUMFORT Headache Powders

Since their introduction in 1896 has been built up on Merit and Merit alone. This has caused a number of imitations to appear but they lack the merit of the Genuine. Avoid substitutes, which you know nothing about and which often contain opiates and other dangerous drugs. Demand and insist on KUMFORT Headache Powders and avoid cheap substitutes. Remember there is nothing "just as good," as in that case the article would be good enough to sell on its own merits. Kumfort Headache Powders are not an unknown quantity, but are endorsed by physicians who are familiar with the formula.

## TESTIMONIALS:

Mrs. J. P. DAVIDSON, Burnt Church, N. B., writes:  
"I have used Kumfort Headache Powders, and my experience is that they will cure nervous headache in a few minutes."

MR. JOHN D. BUCKLEY, merchant, Rogersville, N. B., writes:  
"The best remedy for headache that I have ever used is Kumfort Headache Powders. They cure in a few minutes, create no habit, and I have found them safe and harmless."

MR. JAMES COLLINS, Newcastle, N. B., writes:  
"I use Kumfort Headache Powders and find they always cure and are safe and pleasant to use."

MR. F. H. P. DEWIS, Cape D'Or, N. B., writes:  
"Have used Kumfort Headache Powders and find them most excellent."

MR. A. V. SAYEY, Neguac, N. B., writes:  
"The most satisfactory and perfect cure for headache I find are the Kumfort Powders."

MR. W. C. BALCOM, Hantsport, N. S., writes:  
"I used Kumfort Headache Powders recently and found them a marvelous cure."

MR. W. A. FILLMORE of Fillmore & Morris, Amherst, N. S., writes:  
"I have used Kumfort Headache Powders and can recommend them highly."

MR. H. R. MILLER, Newcastle, N. B., writes:  
"I can safely recommend Kumfort Headache Powders. They are a good remedy for my headache."

MR. JAMES H. McDONALD, merchant, Bridgeville, N. S., writes:  
"I have used Kumfort Headache Powders when required and have never known them to fail. I can cheerfully recommend them as a good article."

MR. A. S. HOOD, Agent Imperial Life Insurance Co., Truro, N. S., writes:  
"I have for years been a great sufferer from headache and have always found Kumfort Powders a reliable and effective cure."

MR. M. HENNESSEY, merchant, Joggins, Mines, N. S., writes:  
"I find Kumfort Powders all right. They will check a headache for me in a few minutes."

MRS. COLIN MCKENZIE, Hampden, N. S., writes:  
"I have been using Kumfort Powders when needed, and they never fail to cure me. They create no habit, and I find no ill effects from their use. In fact I suffer less frequently from headache since I have used Kumfort."

MR. A. H. MACKAY, Sta. Agent, West River Sta., N. S., writes:  
"I have used Kumfort Powders with good results."

The REV. W. R. HARVEY, formerly of Economy, N. S., writes:  
"Although not in the habit of giving testimonials, I have great pleasure in testifying to the good qualities of Kumfort Powders. Being subject to nervous headaches I am always able to find relief by using Kumfort Powders."

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