

FOUND IT FULL OF GAS.

THE FOORD PIT AT STELLARTON CLOSED AGAIN.

Full of Fire and Danger—Only been Opened Since 1886 After Being Flooded for Six Years After the Explosion of 1886—Urgent Need for Action.

NEW GLASGOW, DEC. 5, 1892.—The closing of the Foord pit will in some measure put an end for a time at least to the rapid progress of Stellarton. It is a very serious affair and yet there is no cause for panic. There is coal in the seam that can yet be got out of it the right way to get it is found out. One of the miners, Michael Breen on his way to work descending the shaft, when near the old working concluded that he detected the fumes of the deadly choke damp that heralds an explosion. He at once informed Overman Brown of this fact, who went to the surface and gave instructions to the engineer to lower the cage slowly down the shaft, when he came to the place where Mr. Breen's suspicions were aroused he found they were correct. He then ordered the men all up on the surface, showing his good judgment in acting so promptly. The horses and some material were then brought up and by 2 a.m. the management decided to damp down the pit. On Friday they removed the coverings and it was found their worst fears were realized—the pit was full of gas! The inspector of mines was acquainted with the state of affairs at once, but owing to force of circumstances was unable to come to Stellarton but is expected.

This closing of the pit is a serious thing. On Saturday last the management were ready to close down the mine. This is the second closing of the Foord pit. It has only been reopened since 1886, having been closed and the East river turned to flow into it after the explosion of Nov. 19th 1880. In 1886 the companies amalgamated and the pit was pumped out and reopened, and ever since has seemed free of danger and has turned out a fine quality of coal. Before the mine is again closed due consideration should be given to this case. It is undoubtedly the duty of the government to deal with this matter seriously. For the closing down of the pit is a grave matter in the province, as well as to the county of Pictou. In this coal field, there is estimated to be twenty to forty million tons of coal. It is surely worth while to try and save this at a great cost. The oldest man in Stellarton does not remember the time, when some of the pits were not on fire. All the years the fire has been allowed to rage. Large sums of money have been expended in what some regard as "make shift" operations. But now the need is urgent. The best expert testimony in the continent should be obtained, so that the government will be able to know what is best to be done in the case.

AN AFRICAN SERPENT HUNT.

Exciting Adventure With a Beautiful but Terribly Deadly Reptile.

The spitting snake, of which the Dutch settlers in South Africa tell startling tales, is generally considered a myth, but I myself found the creature there.

One day in 1877, while I was living at Grahamstown, in the Cape Colony, I went out for a snake hunt in Currie's Kloof. An alpenstock, revolver, hunting knife and binocular glass composed, as usual, my equipment.

Now this South African country is very different from our American landscapes. The sky is very cloudless. There are days, weeks, even months of uninterrupted sunshine. Consequently the extreme dryness of the atmosphere entirely precludes that delightful greenness which renders a European or American country so charming.

The city of Grahamstown lies in a valley among hills 2,000 feet above the sea. The country in every direction is unencumbered by fence or wall, so that away across the continent to Khartoum the traveler may walk or ride, finding no other barrier to his progress than mountains and rivers.

For a considerable distance to the north the country is parklike, with hills rising 200,—sometimes 300—feet above the plain, their sides covered by grass broken in the sunshine, or scrubby brush 20 or 30 feet high, struggling to draw life from a stony, unbroken soil. About the hilltops the rocks crop out in every direction, too hot in the eternal solar glare to give resting place to any living thing except lizards. In spite of all this heat and drought and apparent sterility flowers grow in abundance.

In the heat and moisture of the kloofs or mountain ravines the trees grow tall and stately, with great orchid covered vines stretching like ropes from branch to branch, or trailing to the earth, forming a natural gymnasium for the baboons and monkeys to frisk in. The tree fern waves its feathery fronds in the warm wind, and countless varieties drape every overhanging bank and fill every crack of rock or every tree stump, forming shady retreats for the puff adder to sleep in and ambush for snatching the wandering woodrat as he nibbles his nuts in the neighborhood.

This beautiful snake, which is also one of the most deadly in the world, abounds in all the hilly land of the Cape Colony. Both cobras and puff adders swarm around about Grahamstown. Many a day have I spent among the rocks watching their ways and habits—studying their lives at home.

On this special day I had been lying a couple of hours behind a rock watching through my binocular a small snake of the genus Psammophis chasing lizards within a few yards of me. Hidden with the sun,

which had been blazing on my back all the time, and being very thirsty besides, I had then gone down to a big tengu tree growing in the valley, to refresh myself with the copious sap of its succulent roots, for no water was to be had. Quenching my thirst I had lain down in the shade at its foot. All was silence and solitude around, except for the cicadas, which kept up one unchanging and unending song. It was the bottom of the valley where I lay, and out before me ran a level stretch clear of trees for a hundred yards or more. In the middle rose a small bush of acacia, horrid, from which we get gum arabic, thick all over with little flower tufts of yellow. The ground around was covered with the bright green of a creeping mesembryanthemum, all starred over with purple flowers, looking like a rich oriental carpet ready spread for the denizens of the wilderness to stretch themselves upon. And all this time there was one of them lying in the sun—one of the most beautiful and dreadful of Africa's animal wonders.

The birds called my attention to him. I suppose they espied him from the surrounding treetops and they flew down to the acacia bush to reconnoiter. They suddenly raised such a confusion of chattering that I took up my glass to see what was the matter. They seemed greatly excited, hopping hurriedly from twig to twig, flapping their wings and crying out all the time. I could perceive no cause till I stood up. Then there appeared with his neck fattened out a large black cobra (Sepsodon Haemachates) slowly gliding about on the green carpet within a yard of the birds.

For some minutes I watched the scene; but fearing he might disappear in the mole holes, which were numerous all around, I seized my long stick and advanced upon him. His tail was toward me and his attention fixed on the birds. I could see his glittering black eyes, and every moment the forked tongue would lap out meditatively as if he were contemplating a spring. He saw me as I approached, and, turning quickly around, he threw himself into a position of attack. His head, with two-thirds of his body, stood up perpendicularly from the ground, while the remaining part was gathered into a coil of support. The tongue was exerted rapidly, the jetty eyes glistened brightly above the spreading hood, the white rings on his throat appeared across the center of the hoodlike armorial bearings on the shield of a warrior. Altogether he was a most beautiful but dreadful sight.

Facing him, I stood on guard with my stick grasped in both hands, studying how I could best pin his head to the ground with it so as to catch him safely by the neck.

As I moved he came forward to meet me, but still standing erect—a living picture of conscious power and dreadful rage. He dodged the stick, then struck at me. He was about five feet off and too far to reach me. Up to that time I had not believed in spitting snakes, but as the black fellow struck forward towards me two thin, bright streams came from his mouth. One of them struck me in the face, wetting my right cheek close beneath the eye. I paused for a moment, in astonishment, uncertain in my surprise whether any of it got into my eye, but as I felt nothing I concluded it had not and wiped the drops from my face with the sleeve of my coat. Then I captured him.

He was added to my collection of living snakes, where he often afterward repeated the performance of his glass of his cage for the amusement of myself and friends. The poison was squirted from the fangs, as I had many occasions of observing, by the force of muscular compression in the act of striking, and not by the impetus of exhaled breath.

I know from observation that the poison of this snake will destroy the sight of animals, temporarily at least. The eye, after being touched by it, appears as if covered by a white opaque film. After a time, however, I have seen this disappear, and the normal appearance resumed. Further than this I have not examined its effects.

In consequence of the great development of commerce with Africa and the greater frequency with which travellers and scientists visit its strange fastnesses, there is every probability that its deadly snakes as well as its other wonders will get that scientific attention which our present ignorance of them demands.

Philosophy of the Street. Office is one of the things that grow smaller on possession.

A woman would rather lose a lover than let him know how much she loves him. There is as much difference between independence and churlishness as there is between almonds and aloe.

People who volunteer more than they contract for generally find that what is extended as a favor will soon be demanded as a right.

The only royal road there is the one that leads to ruin. Acting on impulse saves a vast amount of preliminary worry, and generally results about as well as any other course.—Milwaukee Journal.

The Old Back Stair. Of all the sports of childhood, I know of none so rare as sliding down the banisters.

Of the old back stair. I remember well the circus, and the fun it used to bring; While watching ferris riders A-dashing 'round the ring. But this jolly old attraction Could never near compare With sliding down the banisters Of the old back stair.

Then I recollect the barn loft, Choked full of clover hay; Mother used to send us there To pass a rainy day. But I often stole away from that And while mother wasn't there, Be sliding down the banisters Of the old back stair.

I have grown into manhood now, And often wonder home; The old folks always welcome me— They're glad to have me come; But while they're not looking I'm tempted, I declare, To slide down the banisters Of the old back stair.

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XMAS SILVER WARE.



Cake Baskets, Tea Services, Pickle Dishes, Fruit and Pie Knives. Sterling Silver Ware in great variety.



Bake Dishes, Castors, Nodkin Rings, Opera Glasses, Etc.

BURPEE, THORNE & CO., 60 and 62 PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

Do You Want a Gold \$5.00?

"Gold Bar" costs one cent. The letters for the motto "G. B. chocolates, the finest in the land" are on the wrappers. Send the wrappers with the letters to make this motto to Ganong Bros. Ltd., St. Stephen, N.B. You will get \$5.00 in gold—A.

Christmas is Coming.

Make your fruit cake and otherwise provide for it. New Raisins, Currants, Spices, Cabbied Peels, Fresh Eggs, Mince Meat, Sweet Cider, Choice Lard, Roll Butter, Dunn's Ham & Bacon, and all other things necessary and in season to be had from J. S. Armstrong & Bro., Charlotte St., next Y. M. C. A.

Thorough work, short time and little cost at SNELL'S BUSINESS COLLEGE. \$100 in GOLD.

To whoever makes the highest rate of speed in the Pernin Shorthand Standard Typewriter in 6 months.

\$25 in Gold for best in 3 months. Students are generally qualified for positions in 3 months by this simple system. Students taking lessons by mail have exactly the same chance. S. J. SNELL, Windsor, N. S.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

PONEY RIG FOR SALE. One of the finest in Canada, consisting of Poney, Pump, Harness and Robes. The poney weighs less than four hundred pounds, and a beauty, sound and kind, good driver and perfect under saddle. A child can handle him. The whole rig is miniature and stylish, all in first class order. Apply at Johnson & Moore's, stable, Peel Street, or address Poney, Box 382, St. John, N. B.

WANTED. Agent for my fine approval sheets of Commission, reference required. Packet A contains 100 varieties stamps from Mexico, South America, Hong Kong, etc., and a New Brunswick stamp with tie. Price 15c. F. BOUT SANDERSON, Box 509, St. John, N. B.

FRASER'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, 119 Hollis St., Halifax is in session day and evening. Best place to learn Bookkeeping, Business, etc., also Stenography and Typewriting. Send for our circular. J. C. P. FRASER, Principal.

CIRCULARS. DODGERS, Calendars, Show writing matter, cards, and all kinds of advertising matter, carefully distributed in all parts of the city by reliable messengers. A trial lot solicited. For further particulars and rates, address—Canadian Advertising Agency, P. O. Box 108, St. John, N. B. 41 nov12th

A BARGAIN—WE ARE closing out in line of English Tweeds—dark colors at \$15.00 a suit. A. GILMOUR, Tailor, 72 Gormain Street.

FOR SALE. A FINE-CLASS, nearly new 4 H. P. Upright Boiler, built to pass government inspection, guaranteed satisfactory. Price low. Apply at PROGRESS Office.

BOARDING. A FEW PERMANENT or TRANSIENT Boarders can be accommodated in large and pleasant rooms, in this very centrally located house, 78 Sidney Street.—Miss McInnis.

STAMPS WANTED. USED before collection, on the following subjects, preferred, I also want pairs and blocks, on and off envelopes for my collection. Actually the highest prices paid. Particularly want some New Brunswick 19c. provisional (rate to Great Britain). Send list of what you have for sale. Sheets of stamps sent on approval to collectors. H. L. HARR, 71, Gillingham Street, Halifax, N. S. June 12-14

IMPORTANT TO FLESHY PEOPLE. We have noticed a page article in the Boston Globe on reducing weight at a very small expense. It will pay our readers to send two-cent stamp, for a copy, to Walker Circulating Library, 10 Hamilton Place, Boston, Mass.

XMAS PRESENTS.

"SHEFFIELD CUTLERY"

From all the best makers such as JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS, GEO. BUTLER & CO., GEO. WOODHEAD & SON, THOS. ELLIN & CO.

Pocket Knives from.....	10 cents to \$5.00 each.	Ivory Handle and Dessert Knives from.....	\$5.00 to \$15.00 per doz.
Scissors from.....	10 cts. to \$1.25 per pair.	Silver Plated Table and Dessert Knives from.....	\$2.00 to \$7.00 per doz.
Ladies' Cases from.....	25 cts. to \$1.00 each.	Cutting Knives and Forks from.....	85 cts. to \$3.00 per pair.
Gentlemen's Dressing Cases from.....	\$4.00 to \$20.00 per case.	Cutlery in Cases from.....	\$2.25 to \$4.00 per case.
Razors from.....	25 cts. to \$4.00 each.	Plated Dessert Knives and Forks in Cases from.....	\$15.00 to \$50.00 per case.
Razors in Cases from.....	\$1.50 to \$10.00 per doz.	Plated Fish Eating Knives and Forks in Cases from.....	\$15.00 to \$45.00 per case.
Ivory Handle Table and Dessert Knives from.....	\$2.00 to \$7.00 per doz.	1 Handsome Cabinet of Cutlery and Plated Ware.....	\$125.00.

Our Stock Never was so Large and Varied as at Present.

SOLID SILVERWARE.

PLATED WARE.

W. H. THORNE & CO., Market Square, St. John.

COUGHLAN'S JEWELLERS' HALL, 28 KING STREET.

GOLD WATCHES, GEM RINGS, BROOCHES, BRACELETS, THIMBLES, CUFF AND COLLAR BUTTONS, and many other Hand-some Christmas Gifts

At Jewellers' Hall, 28 King St.

ENGLISH CUTLERY.

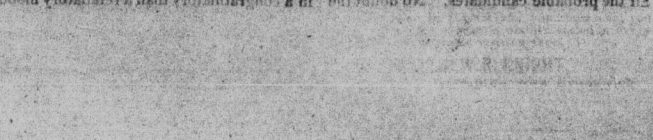
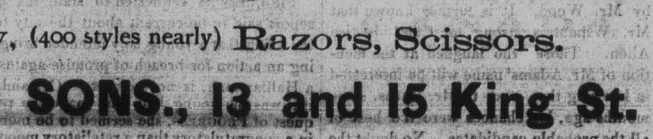
TABLE CUTLERY

in all Styles. See the new "Xylonite" handled Knives, and notice that it is impossible to distinguish them from Knives handled in genuine Ivory. The blades are the same as used in the finest qualities of Knives, and "Xylonite" handled Cutlery is now seen on the best tables.

SILVER PLATED SPOONS AND FORKS UNIQUE DESIGNS. IN STAPLE AND

Pocket Cutlery, (400 styles nearly) Razors, Scissors.

T. McAVITY & SONS, 13 and 15 King St.



HOT WATER KETTLES.

THIS CUT

REPRESENTS

A Very Handsome

KETTLE IN BRASS,

WITH A

SPIRIT STOVE

Undereath.

It is chaste in design, and highly finished. We have a big line of Hot Water Kettles, with and without stands. In Brass we have them as low as 90 cents. In Granite Iron for \$1.50 and upwards.

EMERSON & FISHER, 75 TO 79 PRINCE WM. ST.

P.S. Send for Special List of Goods we offer for Xmas Trade.

A PRIZE PUZZLE.

NO PH... OR STUPID PEOPLE.



(In the above Sketch Six Faces are to be Found.)

The proprietors of *Ladies Home Monthly* will give a first-class Upright Piano, of the very best make (valued at \$500) to the person who can first find the six faces. A reward of a Bicycle (valued at \$125), for the second correct answer. A fine Oak Bedroom Set (valued at \$200) for the third correct answer. A Solid Gold Watch (valued at \$50) for the fourth correct answer. A Ten Dollar Gold Piece for the fifth correct answer. Every contestant is to cut out the names, and make a cross with a lead pencil on the six faces and send same to us with ten three-cent postage stamps or 25 cents in silver for three months subscription to *The Ladies Home Monthly*, which is the best ladies publication in Canada. We will give to the last ten correct answers received such a handsome Remounted Lamp, and valuable prizes will also be given to every person who is able to answer the Riddle correctly until fifty prizes have been won. The envelopes which contain correct answer bearing first postmark, will receive first reward, and the remainder in order as received. Every prize in this competition will be faithfully awarded. Our "house-fee" offers are made by reliable publishers. Be sure and answer to-day and enclose 30 cents, and you may receive a valuable prize for your trouble. Address (31) *Ladies Home Monthly*, 193 King St., West, Toronto, Canada.

MUSIC!

IN MUSICAL

The Oratorio concerts are in musical circles, on the performances the society has instrumental portion, it is rare one play on such an instrument, which took the place say the least it is most valuable. The orchestra which consisted the Philharmonic orchestra, balanced, the strings were taking all things into consideration, the best of the fair conductor into the hands himself such a very delicate the first to impress upon the the choruses lacked attack, weak in the opening choruses, was the greatest. "The His kindness in the day and Messrs. Bristowe, Coste Mrs. Allen was not in the the very little opportunity in the beautiful solo in his the orchestration of Bost is particularly beautiful, the ly new to the orchestra, who prepare it, nevertheless, the cept in one or two places, ed in triple instead of count regardless of the effect ap and the conductor. The prominent, once or twice; has not the fault of the p tomed to play where much Mrs. Allen sang with con solo being "All the while it was heartily enjoyed.

Mr. Dolecki sang all his His voice is very like Myra He will avoid Mr. Whittier's All his solos were sung with and when accorded he gave parts splendidly, especially broken."

Mr. Bristowe was much parts than in his solos, in chamber. He was successful in his duet with Mrs. Allen, he was perhaps best.

The choruses which were very much more practice; the One of the best rendered was might of fire!"

That the work was given as it was, is due to the palpalsting conductor. The thy of remark; the connection The chorus work in Atha facilities, but the society ac creditably.

Miss Hae rendered her ual conscientious and correct Mrs. Allen had more scop certainly the while with strained, and a little worn.

Mrs. Carter sang in her u only regretted that her num had hardly chance to hear tris in which she sang was chorus "Hearts feel that love sung and an encore demand "Priests' War-march" was called for much and deserved say they have never heard before.

Mr. Ford has certainly ad has gained. As a conductor, is a professional conductor sionale. Here, the best of u quite a more decisive beat; it not conversant with profesio Mr. Alfred Porter deserv much praise for his zeal and I am sorry to say the concert Mr. Bristowe was the gue Porter last week.

Mrs. Allen was entertain Warner, and Mr. Tom Da Cline.

Atten the concert Thurstay gave a delightful conversati time for one to have an earl On Friday evening Mrs. P of the performers after the c There is some talk abou at Christmas-tide or there ab

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