

A Mysterious Family History.

THREE CHILDREN TAKEN WILD OFF AN ISLAND IN LAKE HURON.
From the Hamilton Spectator.

One morning about a month ago a man "of strange, wild mien," and not very respectable dress nor intelligent appearance, came to the Orphan's Home in connection with the Sisters of St Joseph, and knocked at the door. One of the sisters came and opened it, and the man presented three children to be taken care of. The children bore a much stranger aspect than himself, and the group excited the surprise and wonder of the sisters. They consisted of a girl and two boys. The boys were clad in loose plaids and were attired altogether with a neatness and respectability which contrasted singularly with their deportment and looks. The girl was about fourteen years old, and was the oldest of the three. She was dressed in a plain and rustic style, but had an expression of much more intelligence than her younger brothers. All of them were small in stature, but the boys especially so, and still they were not dwarfish. They were not deformed, but there was an unnatural and inhuman appearance about them which could be suggested by scarce, ly any other word than deformity. Their oddly expressive eyes, their apish features, their thin, bony, fang-like hands, their slender limbs and attenuated forms, their strange apathy to what was said by their father, their general inattention, their peculiar way of crouching in the corners of the passage way made them objects of curiosity and pitying interest. They were led in by one of the sisters, who also invited the father—for such he announced himself in disjointed sentences to be—to partake of something to eat. But he refused in a hurried manner, saying he had something in his pocket, and seemed fidgety to get away. As soon as the children were in, the man left with the same wild, unintelligible stare which he wore throughout the short interview, and did not make any sign of parting or say a farewell word to his children, or indeed to any one. But as he passed out of the entrance he turned round and furtively looked in through the side lights of the door. Then he ran off hastily and was soon out of reach and out of sight. The children were taken into the Home and had food offered them. About two o'clock in the afternoon the wild looking father was seen to steal softly up to the convent and again entered the gate and peered inquisitively into the side lights. His offspring were not there, however, and the moment he saw he was observed, again fled and was seen no more. The youngsters would not taste any food that was proffered them, though they were emaciated and exhausted as could be. Their hands resembled bird's claws more than anything else, and their feet were but a cluster of bones. On talking to them it was found that they could not speak, albeit they possessed the natural capacity for articulation, having a full set of teeth, perfectly formed root of the mouth, and tongue capable of every movement. Neither did they pay attention to any words or other kind of noise. They have been kept and kindly cared for by the sisters ever since their advent. But it was discovered that the boys were afflicted with a desperate cough, and though every kindness has been bestowed upon them and every mode of treatment adopted, it is not thought likely they will survive long. However they seemed to be gaining strength for some time after they were introduced. Their stay in the Home has shown them to have lived in the wildest manner and to have been totally unacquainted with the habits of civilized people. They can utter no articulate sound, as was said, but at various times they have been heard to give vent to a weird cry, entirely unlike any human utterance, but somewhat resembling the low wail of some wild animal. This is the sole expression the boys have been known to make, but the girl seems much more intelligent, and can speak common words, though she knows nothing of the ways of civilized life. The boys have a constant habit of crouching in corners, and one of them sits with one shoulder "hunched up," as if by malformation. They prefer raw edibles to cooked food, and have only lately taken to eating at the table. At first they greedily devoured raw cabbage leaves, turnips, and even have been known to gulp down the swill that stood in the pail. Of the commonest acts of decency they at first had no idea, (showing their former habits of life), but they have latterly improved in many respects. They sleep mostly in the day time, and at night wander around the rooms, one of them being found one night in a dangerous position on a staircase in the middle of the night. As to their former history only this is known: that they were found by Father Cherrier, Owen Sound R. C. mission, on a lonely isle in Lake Huron, where the father lived with these strange children and would allow no one but himself to live there. The father seeing their condition obtained the father's permission at last to have them taken to a refuge and cared for. The parent came with them voluntarily, and brought them here. The parents of these singular beings were not married and are said to have been nearly related. The mother has been dead for years.

A Postal Regulation.
Broadford, Co. Clare, Ireland.
Sept. 2, 1874.

To the Editor of the Mercury:
Sir,—A Scotchman resident in Ireland, craves space in the Guelph Mercury to make known the following to all its readers who are in the habit of sending an occasional copy of your paper to friends in the Old Country. This morning I received at the post office a paper with a large seal intitled "G.P.O. 3d to pay, name of sender inside of paper." On looking up the paper, I found enclosed a slip printed "J. C. S.—4, 1 Jan. 75." I send you this letter, as I am sure many are taken in, in a similar way, and the publicity of it will be pro bono publico.
I am, sir, etc.,
D. SCOTT.

BIBLES.—Upwards of 5000 Family, Pew and Pocket Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books, Psalm Books, Wesleyan, Baptist and English Church Hymn Books; Hymn Books for all the different Presbyterian Churches. Call and examine Anderson's large and cheap stock before purchasing elsewhere.

A FINE new stock of blank books, journals, day books, pocket ledgers, receipt books, bill books, cash books, letter copying books, scrap books, invoice books, indexes, book-keeping blanks, &c., &c. A full assortment now on hand at Day's bookstore.

CHEAP SILKS,
CHEAP DRESS GOODS.

TO THE LADIES OF GUELPH:

We beg to say that we have just opened the balance of our large Silk purchases, and will commence this (Tuesday) morning at 9 o'clock, to sell off the Cheapest and Most Extensive Variety of Cheap Silks ever witnessed in town.

We are also busy opening up to-day

Over 200 pieces New Fall Dress Goods
In Chaste and Beautiful Designs,

Bought at a tremendous reduction from regular quotations, and which we have determined to sell off at once at prices which no opposition in this town can touch.

COME AND SEE.

A. O. BUCHAM,

Fashionable West End Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment.

THE NOTED TEA HOUSE.

No. 2, DAY'S BLOCK

We have the Largest and Best Stock of

New Crop Teas

General Groceries and Liquors.

Also, a splendid assortment of

NEW CHINA

Crockery and Glassware.

One Trial will Convince that

we have the best Goods and sell the Cheapest of any Store in Guelph.

J. E. McELDERRY,

No. 2, Day's Block.

CLEARING SALE

OF CLOTHING AT THE

Elephant Clothing Store.

Previous to receiving Fall Stock we have concluded upon a Clearing Sale

DURING THIS MONTH

Of our entire stock, consisting of

MEN & BOYS' CLOTHING!

Which we will offer at prices never before equalled in Guelph.

A BEAUTIFUL STOCK OF OXFORD AND REGATTA SHIRTS JUST RECEIVED, TO BE SOLD VERY CHEAP, AND EVERYTHING IN THE WAY OF GENTS FURNISHING GOODS AT COMPARATIVELY LOW PRICES.

HATS AND CAPS

In all the latest English and American styles.

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.

Guelph, Aug. 3rd, 1874.

SIGN OF THE "BIG BOOT."

R. MacGREGOR & CO.

To the Wearers of Fine Boots and Shoes:

We have the exclusive sale in Guelph of some of the finest goods made in Canada, equal to the fine American Goods, but much cheaper.

Also in stock our usual large assortment of those

Superior Handmade BOOTS and SHOES

Manufactured in Guelph especially for our trade, which are so much ahead of all others in the market.

Our Custom Department is under the charge of a first-class foreman, and we guarantee satisfaction.

WE CONTINUE TO DO

The Largest Shoe Business in Guelph

For reasons as follows: We keep the largest assortment! Show the Finest and Best Goods! Sell at the lowest paying prices, and Have One Price Only. On this basis we have done and continue to do business, and ask the patronage of the people.

R. MacGregor & Co.

GUELPH, Sept. 31, 1874.

W. BELL & CO.,

GUELPH, ONT.



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PRIZE MEDAL ORGANS

AND THE CELEBRATED

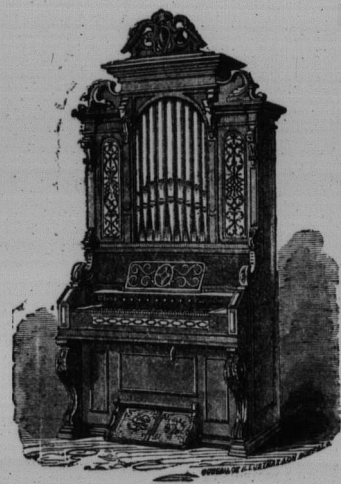
ORGANETTE.

Successful in Every Competition and acknowledged

THE BEST

BY MUSICAL JUDGES

Both in this Country and England.



Prize Medals,

Diplomas,

and **Innumerable First Prizes**

ATTTEST THE MERITS

Of these Celebrated Instruments.

WAREROOMS,

EAST MARKET SQUARE,

GUELPH, ONT.

VISITORS

TO THE

CENT" ALEXHIBITION
NEXT WEEK

WILL BENEFIT THEMSELVES

BY CALLING

AT

ANDERSON'S

Book and News Depot, and Great Base Ball Emporium,

ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE

Wyndham Street, Guelph.

BLACK SILKS,

William Stewart

Begs to announce the arrival of a Case of 5,500 yards of Black Silks. Taking the advantage of the late depression in the Silk Markets of Britain and the Continent, I have secured the above at prices quite unprecedented in the annals of Black Silks for lowness of price, and am now offering Bright Black Silks at 75c, 85c, 95c, \$1, \$1.15, \$1.20, and up.

On comparison purchasers will find fully a reduction of from 25 to 33 per cent. on former prices.

Mr. Stewart respectfully informs the public that the present is a grand time to buy, as prices are again advancing.

WM. STEWART.

August 26th, 1874.

N.B.—New Autumn Goods daily arriving, and grand value.

RECEIVED.

- Ex. S. S. Caspian, 1 Cask Cutlery.
- " " 2 Cases Steel.
- " " 200 Bbls Hoop Iron.
- " Scandinavian, 4 Casks Chains.
- " " 3 loose "
- " " 1 Cask Hardware.
- " Memphis 250 boxes Canada Plate.
- " Severn, 16 Rolls Oil Cloth.
- " Texas, 1881 Bbls Iron.
- " Dominion, 11 Casks Hardware.
- " " 1 Case "
- " " 10 Casks Chains.
- " " 3 loose Chains.
- " " 15 Bbls Gas Tubes.
- " " 10 Kegs Nails.
- " " 5 Cases Borax.

More expected by every Steamer this month

John M. Bond & Co.

Direct Hardware Importers,

Wyndham street, Guelph.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

WM. NOBLE,
Opposite the Market, Guelph
NEXT TO HAT STORE.

Great inducements will be offered for this season at Wm. Noble's shop, opposite the market.

He has now opened out his fall goods, which he will sell at the lowest prices, all new goods, no old stock in his shop, the kindest attention will be paid to customers, that favour him with a call. My motto is "quick sales and light profits." I am also prepared to make all ordered work, in the neatest style and of the best material, no misfits. All sorts of "little boys' work" will be kept on hand. Repairing done, on the shortest notice.

2 Shoemakers wanted that can make first-class work. Highest wages will be paid, and steady employment.
WM. NOBLE,
Guelph, Sept. 2nd, 1874. dwtif