

SCANDAL IN GUMVILLE.

RACING ON THE SABBATH DOWN THE RUE DE COWPATH.

Parson Hooper's Girls Conspicuous—Neck and Neck Between the Old Mare and Whitefoot Olympus—The Terrible Struggle and Final Catastrophe.

GUMVILLE, April 22.—If there is one thing that raises a heavenly tingle in our breast it is to see the youth of our land enjoy themselves. We would sooner see the children at play than a dog-fight. We like to see the kids of our community scamper over the green sward of Nature with undisturbed freedom. But we are free to confess that freedom is a thing which can be too free and ought to be frowned down with no uncertain sound. We are alladin' now to the disgraceful Orgies enacted in our precincts last Sabbath morning. But to resume.

This community has been aware for some time past that young Jefferson Harris was spoons on Parson Hooper's daughter Violet. It has likewise been strongly suspected that young Azariah Scudder was roamin' around the suburbs of the reverend gentleman's youngest daughter, Emerency. But it was not known till now that there was hard feelin' between Jefferson and Azariah owing to it appears to Azariah bein' crowded out of the parlor and bein' obliged to court his girl in the kitchen, where he was camped on by the whole family. If there is anything calculated to undermine the religious instincts of a young man it is to have to court his girl under the supervision of her dotin' parents. We have been there. But to resume.

The reverend gentleman as everyone knows resides in Upper Gumville about a mile and a half from the Freewill church in Lower Gumville. Last Sunday morning Azariah drove up to the parsonage with the old mare and, havin' stowed Emerency aboard, started in a peaceful way for the meetin' house. Just then young Jefferson Harris came along with his four-year-old Olympus critter and hooked onto Violet. Azariah is a tranquil young man by nature but mortal ugly when his bile is rized, and we don't blame him in this appalling episode. But to resume.

It was against all human nature that Azariah, after bein' sot on so hard and often as he was, should allow young Jefferson to throw dust on him and Emerency, right before the public gaze, but that is just what that ornery young blood made up his mind to do.

No sooner did he see Azariah on the road ahead than he touched up young Olympus and undertook to give him the go-by. This was adding insult to injury. Azariah latched the old mare a stem winder, and with that off they went tearing down the Rue de Cowpath on this peaceful Sabbath morn as if the devil had kicked em endways.

Geminity! the white feet of Olympus hardly touched the earth, and the old mare snorted and tore along like a locomotive! The road was lined with people heading for the synagogue, but Azariah's blood was up and for that matter so was Emerency's. From one side of the road to the other they swayed and swung, young Jefferson's enamel teeth shut close and Azariah pilin' the gad on the old mare like all possessed! It was awful.

At the post office the black ostrich feathers of Violet was stringin' out behind as they flew, and Emerency was hangin' to the seat like grim death. "If you let them pass us, Riah," said she, "never let me see you again."

Jewillikins! how they flew. At Boner's brook Olympus was a neck ahead, but he run over Nehemiah Slocomb's dog and broke, and the old mare, with Emerency's red shawl streamin' out, shot by like a cyclone.

But in a minute the mare struck rough footin' and young Olympus came walkin' up on her, the snow springin' from his foothills, the spray flyin' from his nostrils and his long white tail over the dashboard.—Jerusalem! If it hadn't been the day of rest the sight was glorious. Violet was a little scared, but showed her teeth to Emerency saucy like as the white stockings of Olympus went swingin' past, as much as to say, "I'll remember you for this my lady; you'll see!" It was awful.

But just then they struck the down grade at the school house and, Jewittaker, how the old mare flew! Her head was stretched out and she snapped her tail every time the gad fetched her, and her feet darted out like fish-hooks as they grabbed the dusty ground! Foot by foot she climbed on young Olympus—she passed the hind-wheel, and then the forred-wheel—and then his middle—and then his head, while the pebbles from her feet flew over the dasher in a perfect hail storm.

At the cross-roads they nearly ran over Deacon Hopper, but the red shawl was still ahead. At the cheese factory Olympus run into a flock of sheep and the wagon jumped a yard in the air. They overtook old Ebenezer White, and knocked a wheel off slick and clean, and Azariah's beany went sailin' like a balloon out over the meadow.

Good heavens, how pretty the white stockings of young Olympus looked as they flashed in the sun! On the up-grade the

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critter showed his breedin' and again the ostrich feathers flew in the van.

Then Azariah stood up and piled on the gad like mad while the girls were sassin' each other. Over the bridge and past the corner they bounced and rattled, first shawl and then feathers to the fore!

Down the street they went scattering the people right and left, till just as they reached the church what should the old mare do but turn round sharp and bolt for the gate! Azariah hollered, the girls screamed and Jefferson tried to rein Olympus up, but it was no use; in a jiffy the horses struck each other, the sparks flew in showers from the wheels and over went both kersmash in the ditch. It was awful.

Violet was picked up on the side of the road with her ostrich feathers under her in a good state of repair, but cryin' bitterly. Emerency went over the dasher head first and landed in the ditch. She was stunned for a spell, and when she came to the first thing she said was: "Riah, they didn't pass us, did they? Come, kiss me!"

Azariah, who was tangled up in the red shawl slid a rod or two on his ear and, when the traces broke, was dragged through the gate by the old mare. Young Jefferson leaped up on the old mare's hinder, slewed over the shafts and, the devil bein' good to his own, lit on his feet.

There was no preachin' in the meetin'-house that day, brother Hooper bein' too much used up over the awful occurrence to enter the tabernacle. The excitement in Gumville this week has been tremendous. Opinion is evenly divided as to the propriety of Jefferson and Azariah and several fights has been the result. Some is in favor of invitin' the reverend Mr. Hooper to resign; while the Opposition is in favor of raisin' his salary. Our private opinion of young Jefferson is that he is an infernal scoundrel. BILDAD.

MARRIAGES IN BRITAIN.

Money is not Necessary, But the Ceremony is Elaborate and Trying.

A typical Breton wedding is as curious as it is improvident. So poor are often the young pair that the only way they can set up housekeeping is by presents from their friends of food, flax, furniture and money. The youth desirous of matrimony simply offers his hand to the object of his choice. If she accept she must confirm her acquiescence by drinking wine with him. Her father's consent is asked by proxy, the deputy holding a piece of tuzze during the interview. The father usually offers an old woman, a young widow, and a child, before granting the request.

On the wedding day a cowherd leads round the village an ox wagon laden with the wedding furniture. This consists of a press, a bedstead like a wardrobe (shutting up entirely, with only firework for ventilation), a cask of cider, a churn, a porridge pot, and a bundle of faggots. On the top of this load two maidens are seated, one spinning hemp and the other flax. The bride shows her fine breeding by making her friends drag her to church. On either side of the altar burns a wax taper, and it is expected that whoever of the two is next the least brilliant light will die first.

The bride, on leaving the church, is presented with a distaff to remind her of her duties. Tripe, butter, buckwheat-bread, and cider, form the marriage feast, towards which each guest pays his portion. During the meal the bridegroom disappears to purloin a mattress; if he is caught in the act, it is pulled to pieces. Finally, the bell-ringers inflate the bagpipes, and, on a new-mown field, dancing is led off by the bridegroom.

At night, according to an ancient custom, the mother gives her daughter a handful of nuts. The happy pair are serenaded at their retire, and are served with a soup containing crusts threaded together, in symbol of unity. Their embarrassment is vainly endeavoring to eat these crusts provokes much amusement, after which they are bidden "Good night."

Easy to Dress the Boys.

It is a much easier matter to dress children than it was some years ago, for the suits worn by the little fellows of today are almost all bought ready made. In this line Messrs. Scovil, Fraser & Co. have done such a large business that they were warranted in making a specialty of it, and have a stock that must please the most fastidious parents, and which includes suits that will fit boys of all sizes. Messrs. Scovil, Fraser & Co. have recently been awarded the contract for supplying 40 conductors' suits for the C. P. R.

Watch For It Next Week.

Mr. T. H. Hall's change advertisement reached the office too late for publication this week, but it contains information regarding safety bicycles which can be read with equal interest next week. Mr. Hall has been the agent for the famous Rudge bicycles six years, and in his advertisement puts forth four very good reasons why they are the best.

The Cup That Cheers.

The East Indies commenced tea culture in 1860. In 1864 two and a half million pounds were sold and consumed by the British Isles. In 1890 over one hundred million pounds were used, showing by the vast increase the popularity of Indian tea. A very superior quality—RAM LAL'S PURE INDIAN TEA—for sale by J. S. ARMSTRONG & BRO., 32 Charlotte street.

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SHOULD WOMEN VOTE?

THE LADIES OF THE FREDERICTON UNION THINK SO.

But the Men would Require to be Shut up—What a Dozen Good-looking Men could do at Convassing—The Man Mortal is Degenerate but Enjoyable.

One of the most flourishing institutions in Fredericton is the Women's Christian Temperance union. Of late it has been flourishing the flag of women's rights.

The union does a good work in the city. It scatters a good many tracts over the face of nature which, no doubt, are read. It visits the poor and also the hospital and the county jail. And sometimes it will visit its own members—but this depends.

It is a joint stock corporation and owns a fine brick building, embellished with mansard roof and mortgage, which contains a public hall and several stores. The union rents the stores and woe betide the tenant who is slack on quarter day. It manages a coffee room, which is a great convenience to lawyers and business men who have not the time to travel home for dinner. The bill of fare is nutritious and reliable. It commends itself, especially, to persons of an economical, but at the same time, gastronomical, turn of thought.

A great deal is undoubtedly done for temperance by the union. But the crowning glory of the union is its weekly meetings, where questions of the day are handled in vigorous, man fashion. There is an election of officers now and then, and the tellers who count the ballots have lots of fun. There are discussions on the rules of parliamentary debate and the union has them down very fine indeed.

For the past two weeks the union has been debating the subject of women's suffrage. No man mortal was allowed inside. But the hall was crowded just the same.

Some vital points have been adjusted; others are yet unsettled. It is admitted by the union that women are better than men, but not so enjoyable. It is even conceded by the union that women are smarter than men, but why they cannot throw a stone or sharpen a pencil has been elucidated.

It is the opinion of the union that woman was made because man was lonesome and that it was inadvisable to throw upon him the entire responsibility of raising the family himself. But the idea that woman was an after-thought is not entertained by the union.

It is believed by the union that a man mortal is of no intrinsic value to the world on wash-days, and it is strongly suspected that at house-cleaning times he is an unmitigated nuisance. It is held by some that a man mortal is essentially dangerous, but this view while stoutly supported by evidence, is not concurred in by the single ladies of the union.

Some of the fair orators of the union maintain that a man who smokes is a nuisance. But these are mainly orators who have weak stomachs. Others affirm that smoking keeps a man good-humored and out of mischief.

The union inclines to the view that man is an intelligent being with strong powers of reason, while woman's intelligence is intuitive. Morally, man's status is high, but he will bear a deal of watching.

The main question in the union around which all others cluster is whether woman should vote. She is inclined to think she should. She thinks her influence upon politics would be refining—that she would counteract the degenerate tendencies of the man mortal. That in matters of morals her vote would be cast for truth and purity and goodness. Some contend that she is fitted for the higher realm of politics; that she has a right to take part in grave affairs of state. But what would become of the poor government if the surveyor-general's bonnet was out of fashion, or if the provincial secretary put on airs, or if domestic incidents should render it advisable for the premier to remain at home, is not stated.

The union was present in full force last Wednesday and the Wednesday before when the question was discussed. Of course the majority were in favor of voting. But the other side made out a strong case, nevertheless. Here is an extract from a speech delivered by the leader of the opposition.

Let us take the city of Fredericton and see how the vote of women would affect temperance. Suppose the question for the next election was prohibition and anti-prohibition. What percentage of the votes would be cast for prohibition? Are there more women than men according to their numbers who would vote the prohibition ticket with existing influences? I believe there are not. As in every city, there are many true women who would vote and use their influence for the right every time. But I don't believe even in this well-behaved city of Fredericton they would be in the majority. In case women had a vote you could not shut the men up, and what woman is not susceptible to their influence? Turn a dozen good-looking, popular, wily men out to canvass this city, and they would capture more votes in a forenoon than the W. C. T. U. could in a month! There are so many weak points of attack in our sex that I will mention another. More than half of the females of any city are hampered in the matter of dress. They look upon their favored sisters who can sport a sea-like esquisse or silk dress as something altogether outside of the pale of ordinary mortals—beings endowed with something of a cherub's grace—and as we come down in the scale of aspiration, a new bonnet, a gaily dress, or a cloak and hood for the baby will more than take the place of the permanent barrel of flour or \$5 bill. Still descending to the lower strata where votes would come thicker and faster, a web of calico or a few yards of ribbon would purchase votes without number.

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But despite the appeals of the leader of the opposition, the government with its "servile majority," (as the man politician would say) voted down the amendment to the time of 23 to 7. And, then by a vote of 19 to 7, it was resolved to circulate petitions in favor of granting to women that which the selfish male human has so long enjoyed—the right to speak by ballot. BILDAD.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

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