POOR DOCUMENT



THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH. ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 2, 1 901.

Harriet's Backsliding

BY JOSEPHINE DODGE DASKAM.

The Rev. Mr. Freeland looked down the | She fell into a dreadful passion, and called long, narrow poorhouse table, and then him a lukewarm Jesuit, and told him that glanced inquiringly at the matron.

"What has become of Harriet Blake, Mrs. couldn't believe in the Holy Ghost! He was Markham?" he asked. "I thought she sat very polite and quiet, and picked a rose at this table-I hope she's not ill ?"

"Harriet's backslid," 'announced the widow Sheldon laconically. She was a Baptist of the variety sometimes known as hard-shelled, and made nothing of interrupting the discourse of any representative of a

ing the discourse of any representative of a denomination unpleasing to her. "Backslid?" repeated the reverend guest, dropping his napkin. "She don't believe in——" "Harriet," interrupted the matron some-what crossly, and with an unconcealed frown for the widow Sheldon, "Harriet is taking her dinner alone. She—she is not quite well, I think. I will speak to you about her lator," she added as the pastor's eyes grew? round at her. The widow] Sheldon sniffed loudly. "A person who has ter have her vittles carried up ter the bed chamber on account o' losing any little faith she might 'a had," she began, but old Uncle Peterson broke in with his gentle drawl: "Oh. come on, Mis' Sheldon, don't go and

with his gentle drawl : Mrs. Markham led the way across the

"Oh, come on, Mis' Sheldon, don't go and Mrs. Markham led the way across the hall and up the stairs. Before a door she paused to say, "As l.ng as Harriet is upset in this way she has the room alone, because Mary Smith scolds her all night for being so sinful, and it makes them both cross. Mary is in the hall room, and talks in her sleep so that nobody can rest very well. It doesn't disturb Harriet at all, she's such a sound sleeper, and I wish she could go back! You don't knew how this disturbs us! Remem-ber that we have prayer-meeting at half-past four," and she left him alone before the door. Mr. Freeland knocked loudly and entered. spile a good biled dinner with words of bitterness," he urged. "Harriet's a good woman, as is known to all, and if she's travellin' through dark ways just now -----" The pastor looked puzzled, but he saw that the subject was better left alone; previous visits to the poorhouse had led him to dread the widow Sheldon's tongue. He nodded approvingly at Uncle Peterson. "Quite right, quite right," he said quick-

"Quite right, quite right," he said quick-ly. "That's the spirit for us all to have. Shall I ask the blessing, Mrs. Markham?" And the meal went on. But there was something in the air that hot Sunday noon; something that lent varie-ty to the usual monotony of the querulous meal-times. There was less comment on the food than was usual, and the widow Sheldon's resentful silence was more impress-ive than her ordinary vindictive volubility. It appeared that something had actually happened. Once in her private sitting-room the ma-tron began, low-woiedd, with an occasional glance at the closed door as if to make cer-

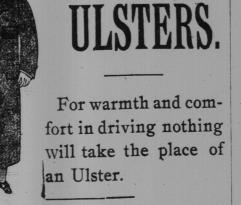
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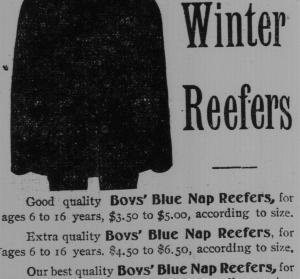
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NAME.

The numerous able editors who are so

copious and eloquent with their advice to

kingdom should not omit to send marked



in fact, she doesn't believe any more in the Holy Ghost!"

"Doesn't believe in h-in it?" Mr. Freeland was absolutely unprepared for precisely this form of agnesticism, and showed it.

"She says she doesn't see any sense in it," responded Mrs. Mackham briefly.

"Oh-ah, yes!" The pastor looked vague ly over her head. There was a pause, and then he gathered himself together.

"But this-this is all wrong!" he said for cibly.

"So we tell her," replied the matron. "It is sinful-it is extremely dangerous !" he repeated, still more forcibly.

"That's what the widow Sheldon says," replied the matron. "She lectures her about it every meal, and Harriet can't stand it. She says she can't help what she be lieves, and I can't blame her for that."

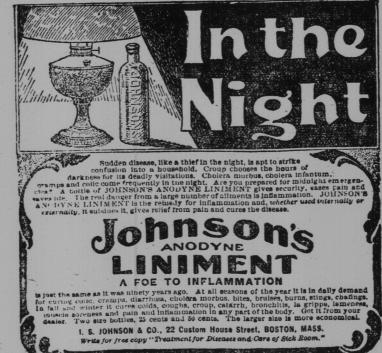
"How long--' "She's been so for two weeks now, and she gets worse and worse. I had the Methodist minister-Harriet used to attend that church-up to talk to her about it, to see if she'd feel better, fand he talked for four hours. Harriet sat as still as a stone, he said, and never moved or paid the least attention to him. Finally he asked her why she didn't answer, and she said he hadn't asked her opinion that she could see. So he asked her what it was, and she said that the Lord Almighty created the earth, and that his Son, the Redeemer, saved it, and that his [Son, the Redeemer, saved it, and she didn't see anything more for the Holy (thost to do. And everything that he told her she said]one or the other could do per-fectly well alone! And the angrier Mr. Dent got, the calmer Harriet was, I sup-pose, for he left in a rage, almost—I suppose it was trying, even for a minister—and when I went up to Harriet she seemed very calm. She told me triumphantly that the last thing she did was to show him that big Bible of hers, with the picture in the front, where she's crossed out the figure of the dove with ink, and to tell him that she was no Papist, to worship graven images of "I see 'em there. and I got thinkin' abont in an agony of grief. The pastor remem-bered the time when he had wrestled with no Papist, to worship graven images of

birds!" Mr. Freeland shook his head gravely. "Dear, dear, dcar!" he said. Mrs. Markham went volubly on, glad, apparently, of a sympathetic listener. "And then 1 got Dr. Henshawe from St Mary's, in the city, you know, who's out here this summer, to come in. He's a very free mean and very interesting. He staved bered the time when he had wrestled with certain damnation in the form of terrible religious doubt, and experienced again that terror of hope gone from him that had digui-fied even his commonplace life. His vocab-neceded from his mind like the tide from the beach, and left it bare of suggestion. He looked at her for a moment, and as she bent her tired old head over her term and here this summer, to come in. He's a very fine man, and very interesting. He stayed a while with Harriet, and told her not to mind, but to go on, and pray, and do the best she could, and she couldn't be blamed. He told me afterwards that he was far from considering her religious, condition a safe one, but that she would soon be ill, and was rewing morbid and he tried to soothe her. Harriet had sliffened again and got herself

growing morbid, and he tried to soothe her. Harriet had stiffened again and got herself

and thanked him so piously, so meekly, to' watch is a probability of the solution of the solutis solu

"Well, that's easy," was the reply. "There is to law against a man making a fool of himself, vou know. Will you jump from the Brooklyn bridge or shoot the Niagara rapids?"-Chicago Post. Fivo Chinese girls were recently sold at



 A state in the close of back is the work is the remain points. The work is the first is the state in the mate back is the work is the remain back is theremain. The remain back is the remain back is the remain back LOUDOU Mindful of the sad fate of Admirat Dewey, the British admirers of Lord Roberts have not offered him a house and lot—Toronto News. For entering than just now. Large classes of clever and ambitious students all work-ing like beavers. Everything running as smoothly as a well oiled machine. Shorthand: The Isaac Pitman. Typewriters: The Underwood, Smith Prem-ier, Densmore, Jewett, New Century. Every machine a now one. Business Practice: Exclusive use of the best system. The Countess de Castellane will have to et along for a while on a beggarly allow-nce of \$200,000 a year. Poor creature!— Boston Globe. It fools future is stelling to see the Naw York city authorities advertising two hun-dred babies for adoption. All ages, sizes, colors, complexions and sexes will be fur-nished to suit the tastes and desires of ap-plicants. Verily, the world is full of little waifs!—Boston Herald, get along for a while on a beggarly allow-ance of \$200,000 a year. Poor creature!est system. SEND for Catalogues. S. KERR & SON, Oddleilows' Hall. Send for Catalogues. Boston Globe. An Amherst, N. S., man has absconded to Montreal with \$20. If he meets the right people, this amount will last him about two minutes.—Montreal Herald.

FOR SALE-1 Marine Engine, 18 H. P., second hand, 1 do, 5 H. P. new, 2 15 H. P. Stationaries, 1 9 H. P. Steel Boiler (up-right), 1 Engine Lathe 15 in. by 6 ft., 1 set Platform Scales, 3 tons capacity, second hand. We carry in stock Bone Grinders, Portable Forges, etc., etc. Joseph Thompson Machine Works, 48-53 Smythe St., St. John, N. E. Telephone 968. afflict us at this crisis so much as he might. His failure is cast in the shade by the efforts of the cartoonist who cannot cartoon.—Montreal Gazette. The difference between the judges and

the weather these days is that while the former are being sworn in The latter is-being sworn at.—Toronto News. No Use For Him. Goodhardt-I've got you down for : couple of tickets, we're getting up a Christ mas raille for a poor man of our neighbor A Wisconsin judge has given a woman a divorce because her husband is an inveter-ate cigarette smoker. "A Daniel come to

Joakley-None for me, thank you. I wouldn't know what to do with a poor man if I won him -Philadelphia Press.

judgment."—Boston Transcript. For the benefit of the public it may be mentioned that the Boer war is not yet-over. It will be revived as soon as the newspapers find space for it.—Toronto News.

Robbing the mails by post office em The evening papers announced Verdi's ployes is getting to be rather more free death fourteen hours before it occurred. A man has to die quickly these days to the opportunities and temptations larger. or are the employes getting less true seep up with the rapid press .- Montreal worthy? There's something going wrong. -Boston Herald.

for years. The negotiations being con-ducted at Pekin must be a play, or at least the Celestials regard it in that light. BRITISH LOVE THE EMPEROR. Toronto Globe.

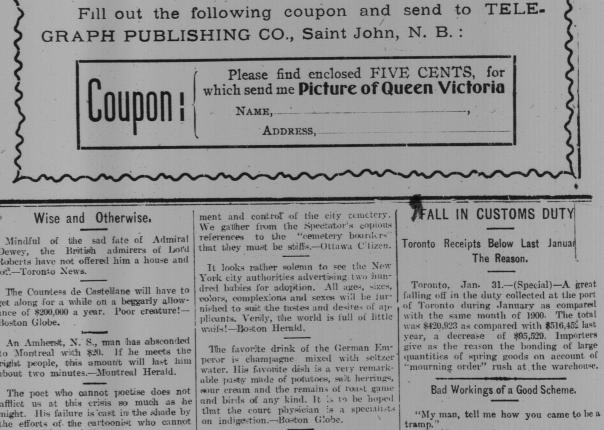
A lady in Shelburne Falls claims to be in possession of a lock of Queen Victoria's hair. If she can establish its genuineness, England Had Been at Another Time. she might be able to get her own price for it, just now.-Boston Post.

the Gazette in a despatch from England, John L. Sullivan says: "I know Wales John L. Sullivan says: "I know Walls all right, all right." This statement will discusses the significance of the kaiser's relieve the general feeding of doubt among visit. The correspondent says: "It would John L's constituency as to England's the an unjustifiable and presumptuous error new sovereign.—Montreal Hera'd. to ascribe a particular political meaning to

Mr. William T. Stead, of London, wants the emperor's act of personal affection and unde Paul Kruger "to play his trump card." If the said card bears the likeness alsy the "dummy,"—New York Mail and nation will be the means of removing a Epyress. great misunderstanding. It is stated that

It has just been discovered that the Cin-cinnati theatre which went up in smoke a few days ago was strictly fireproof. This, if it is a fact, did not materially lessen the labors of the fire department.—New York

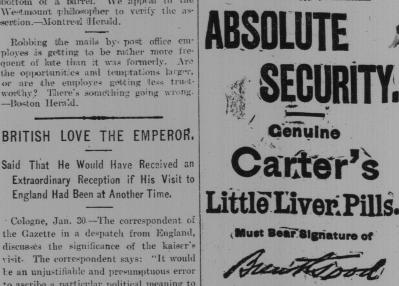
Mail and Express. The newspapers in Hamilton are having a lively discussion regarding the manage-



tramp." "Gb, Lless yer, they got me t' jine ope o' these Don't-Worry clubs; an' I got so 1 didn' keer when I lost m' job." Detroit

copies of their newspapers to his majesty. Otherwise a good deal of choice counsel is likely to be lost.—Boston Herald. Speaking of the inland revenue service, a man who has been in the ice business ought to be an ϵx -iceman.

Chinese men can get divorces from their Of all the evil spirits abroad in the world insincerity is the most danger cus. - Fronde

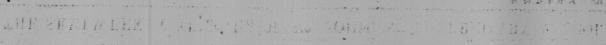


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It is said that a Chinese play goes on

