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Vol 30

UNCLE BILL, OR THE MISER CAUGHT.

Uncle Bill Griffin, or Uncle Bill, as he was commonly called, with an irreverent disregard of his patronymic, did not retire from the ship chandlery business till he was worth something more than a plum. Not being blessed with a son to continue his name and inherit his fortune, he bestowed all his care and tenderness upon his daughter, Sweet Molly Griffin, though, as unlike the papa was a century bird in "like a bill dog." His face, as was said of a Dutch, nut-cracker—thine as soft as a rose leaf. He was the veriest miser in all creation—thou didst spend thy pocket money as the Prince of Wales. In his household management Uncle Bill was a consummate skin flint; tradition says that he used to soak the backlogs in the cistern, and water the lamp oil, and he was aided and abetted in all his niggardly schemes by a vinegar-faced "bouse" keeper, who was the sworn enemy of all good cheer, and stinied, from a pure love of meanness. Yet pretty Mary had no right to complain of her father's penuriousness, as far as she was concerned. He sent her to the best schools, and gave her a cart blazche on the most extensive millinery, and when she walked Washington street on a sunny day, there was not a more gallantly dressed dame from Cornhill to Essex street.

Of course, several nice young men in varnished leather and white kids, fell over head and ears in love with her, and there was a larger number outside of the meeting she attended on Sunday, than darkened the door of any other metropolitan church.

Yet cold was the maid, and the lemons ad'vance. All drilled in Ovidian art, they languished and ogled; protested and glanced. Like shadows they came, and like shadows they glided.

From the post polished ice of her heart.

Besides, Uncle Bill was a formidable guardian in his lovely and attractive daughter. He did not see a charge of rock salt at Tom Bittles, when he came serenading him with a cracked guitar. Didn't he threaten to kick Tom for leaving a valentine a his dog? Wasn't he capable of unheard-of atrocities? The suitors of pretty Mary were all frightened off the course by her ogre of a father, except a steady young fellow who rejoiced in the name of Sampson Bittles, and who was addicted to book keeping in a wholesale grocery store in Commercial street. The old gentleman really liked Bittles; he was so staid, so quiet and so full of information. He was a regular price current, and no man on "change was better acquainted with the price of stocks. Why Mary liked him it is very difficult to conjecture, for he was very deficient in the small talk ladies are so fond of, "was avers" to mustaches, disliked the opera, thought the ballet immoral, and considered walking in dresses. Perhaps his good looks compensated for other deficiencies, or perhaps the horrors of dying in a state of single blessedness, induced her to countenance the only young man Uncle Bill was ever known to tolerate.

One evening Bittles screwed up his courage to the task of addressing the old man on the subject nearest his heart.

"Mr. Griffin," said he, "I've had some thing here for a long time," and he made up a horrible face, and placed his hand somewhat near his breast.

"Dyspepsia," said the old man.

"Your daughter," gasped the young man.

"Well, what about her?" asked Uncle Bill abruptly.

"I'm in love with her," said the unhappy clerk.

"Jumbo," said Uncle Bill.

"Fact," rejoined Bittles.

"What's your income?" inquired Griffin.

"Eight hundred" answered the supplicant.

"It won't do, my boy," said Griffin, shaking his grim locks. "No man on a salary shall marry my daughter. Why, she's the finest girl in Boston, and it takes capital to marry a fine girl. When you have thirty thousand dollars to begin with you may come then and with me."

Bittles disappeared. Six months after that, Miss Mary Griffin received a letter with an endorsement of Uncle Sam, acknowledging the receipt of forty cents. It ran thus:

"SAN FRANCISCO, California, 1852.

Dearst Mary,

Enclosed you will find a specimen of California gold, which please hand to your father and oblige. Have to advise you of my return to Boston. Please tell your father that I have made fifty thousand dollars at the mines; and shall, v'nd and weathers, permitting, soon call upon him to talk over that matter, and arrange terms of partnership.

Yours to command,

Sampson Bittles."

FROM THE STATES.

ANGOR, Feb. 23.

The New York Times has information of considerable trouble in Banks' army relative to negro troops. Several Commissioned Officers resigned, and one Brigadier refused to recognize or march them.

Bombardment of Vicksburg commenced on the 18th. The mortar boats being too much exposed changed position and renewed the bombardment. Confederate fire brisk.

Gunboat Indianapolis had run past Vicksburg.

Slave property has depreciated in Maryland to a very low figure. The value of one hundred and thirty slaves in Orphan's Court at night only five dollars each.

A serious boundary quarrel has arisen between California and Nevada.

Four thousand Mexicans under Gen. Anzures sailed for Acapulco. Object unknown.

Vicksburg correspondent of the N. Y. Times draws a terrible picture of the sickness afflicting and mortality among the Federal troops.

Richmond papers say that information has been received in Richmond to the effect that the entire army of the Potomac, is evacuating its position and being divided between Washington and Gettysburg.

General Stuart and A. P. Hill were in Richmond on the 16th and addressed the Legislature.

The Confederate loss at the battle of Fort Donelson, in killed, wounded and missing, is estimated at 28,000.

The Richmond "Despatch" says editorially, that the North are fighting as much for self preservation as for Southern subjugation—that the time when the National Government sought to extinguish the South has passed, and the further prosecution of the war is to see the North from the avails of war which the success of the South must precipitate. It argues that our manufactures would tumble into ruins, and our ships of commerce rot, if the South should accomplish its object, and predicts that cities, revealing those of the North, would spring up in the South, and the present flow of revenue to the North be transferred to the South.

Feb. 21.

The Richmond Examiner contains at Port Hudson despatch 18th, reporting capture of Ram Queen West, in Red River, striking her colors after severe engagement with the batteries.

Louisville Journal gives various reports concerning another Confederate invasion of Kentucky considering it formidable. Lexington supposed object of attack.

Louisville Democrat discredits idea of British Confederate force in Kentucky. British Steamer Alice with 8000 bales of cotton arrived at Havana from Mobile.

The Calcutta Englishman reports Confederate Privateers cruising in Bay of Bengal, determined to burn every Federal vessel in those waters.

Another battle reported imminent near Suffolk, Va.

Great activity at Charleston to repel impending attack.

Gold selling in New York to-day at 171.

Reports of Confederate raid into Kentucky greatly exaggerated.

They arose from eight hundred cavalry entering Richmond, passing through Winchester with shrill cries, and disappearing via Mount Sterling.

All quiet in the vicinity of Frankfort and Lexington.

Resolutions of Delaware Legislature asking Missouri to send delegates to National Convention to effect amicable, was severely denounced by Gov. Gamble and Missouri Legislature, and unavailing passed over.

Immense Union meeting held at Cincinnati on Monday declaring for vigorous prosecution of the war and support of the Government.

New and rich gold diggings discovered in Boyer River, Oregon. Miners rushing thither.

Feb. 28.

Bark Sallie Bonsall, reported sunk by Florida, arrived safely at Key West.

Depon's Powder Mill, Wilmington, Delaware, exploded yesterday killing fourteen persons.

Despatch received at New York per steamer Glasgow, states that new steamer 296 was lying in Murray, expecting to sail in a few days for Confederate rendezvous.

Nashville despatch says Wheeler's whole force, four Brigades, was on that side of Columbia, Tenn., and reported carrying off all able bodied contrabands South.

Porter was within four miles of Franklin, where Gen. Gilbert has large Federal force. No attack apprehended.

Arrival of the "Jura."

PORTLAND, Feb. 25, 1863.

"Jura" arrived at 10-40 this morning. Mason, Confederate Commissioner, heartily welcomed at Lord Mayor's Banquet, and received three cheers.

Parliamentary proceedings unimportant. Gladstone purposes to reduce duty on cigars.

Stormy slavery meeting at Liverpool—Secessionists mustered strong, but Emancipation carried two to one.

French Minister explained that the Emperor's Italian policy is to reconcile Italy and Pops, maintaining tranquillity.

Conflicts in Poland continue, but mostly in favor of the Russians—one exception.

Times says the insurgents are increasing under lead of Catholic priests, and seizing and keeping whole Provinces.

King of Cape Coast, Africa, is dead.

Great fire at Lagos.

Funds dull. Discount moderate. Breadstuffs slightly declined. Cotton unchanged. Consols 92 5/8 to 3/4.

Galway subsidy to be restored; their steamers will sail from Southampton to secure portion of continental traffic.

Gibraltar, late Sumter, left Gibraltar 6th inst.

Fortescue in Commons said Government refused to give direct aid to Inter-Colonial Railway, but would lend Imperial credit for raising loan.

THE LEGISLATURE.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 23th.

The Secretary brought in his accounts for 1862 and his estimates for this year, and spoke briefly. He says the increase in the revenue from October 31st to the present time is about \$52,000. He estimates the revenue for 1863 at \$638,859, an increase of \$100,000 on import and export duties compared with last year. The expenditure is estimated at \$638,000. He thinks the Legislative expenses will be \$10,000 less this year.

The revenue last year was \$668,197, or \$30,000 less than was estimated.

The whole deficiency is about \$120,000.

No loan nor additional taxes will be required this year.

Gillmar presented a petition in favor of establishing public wells at St. George.

Stevens presented a Bill relating to actions of judgment.

The Attorney General presented Bills relating to securities given by Deputy Treasurers and other public officers.

The Secretary in answer to W. J. Gilbert said that the Government intend to bring the Inter-Colonial Railway under the notice of the House this Session.

Samuel Nelson Freeze is appointed Sheriff of King's County.

The Secretary laid before the House the Inter-Colonial Railway papers.

The Canadian Delegates before leaving England raised objections respecting the sinking fund; the carriage of British troops; the submitting of the line and surveys to the Imperial Government, and giving a guarantee that the line will not cost more than three millions sterling, before the Home Government gives its guarantee.

Lieut. Gov. Gordon, in forwarding the memorandum of the Canadian Government to his Council expressed the extreme regret and disappointment with which he has perused it. He says the conditions of the proposition of the Imperial Government were ordered to meet the successive objections raised by the Delegation, and that Her Majesty's Government were under the impression that they had been in substance agreed to. He regrets the hasty departure of the Canadian Delegates from England after the delivery of their memorandum without seeking any further discussion on the subject, Gov. Gordon is glad to learn that the Canadian government, pending the solution of the difficulties are prepared to proceed with the surveys of the line.

Fredericton, Feb. 26th.

Bills introduced—by Lindsay, to require returns from Justices having defaulting tax lists for collection; by Watters to continue Act to provide for attendance and examination of witnesses before House Committees thereof; by H. E. Gilbert to repeal act for encouragement of Agriculture, and petition from inhabitants of Queen's against agricultural grants; by Fisher relative to taxes, and one to amend Act for Incorporation of City of Fredericton; by Gaudin, with recommendationary petition, further to provide for erection of Public Hall, Carleton.

Progress made in Young's Bill relating to Buoy and Buoys; in Stevens' relating to exemption of St. Stephen from certain duties, it was stated that passage of this was useless, as under royal instructions Governor could not assent; in Stevens' Justice in Equity Bill; also Stevens' Ejectment Bill.

Tilley submitted report of Chief Superintendent of Schools.

Boyd asked what Government had done under resolution of last Session with reference to Denominational Schools. Tilley said estimates show same appropriation as former year. Boyd complained that at least more equitable apportionment had not been made.

Mr. Ryan moved that the House adjourn until to-morrow out of respect for and to give the members an opportunity to attend the funeral of the Queen's Printer. Smith and Stevens objected as unnecessary and establishing precedent. Motion carried on division. House adjourned till 10 to-morrow.

Third Annual Report of the Board of Agriculture.

This is a neat pamphlet of 79 pages issued from the Royal Gazette Office. We have early from this week, for the following extracts from the Secretary's preface, but will give further extracts in succeeding numbers:

"Attention has been made in this report to the Agricultural Statistics lately published, as affording the most encouraging prospect of the state of Agriculture in our Province.

The reverse of fortune annually experienced by those engaged in the twofold business of lumbering and farming, compared with the experience of those who make agriculture their sole pursuit, are pregnant with salutary lessons. Prudence points to the steady pursuit of but one avocation, if ultimate success would be obtained; the lumberer to follow his business, and the farmer to make farming occupy his undivided attention; and amidst the many vicissitudes which are more or less common to every business of life, the husbandman is daily learning that he is least liable to be affected by them.

The glowing accounts heretofore received from far off lands of the superior benefits and advantages which the Emigrant from this Province would possess, as being provided delusive; a spirit of contentment is taking the place of restlessness and a desire of change; whilst the distressing and fearful ravages of war to which our neighbors are exposed, and which seem to be indefinitely prolonged, are causing the subjects of our noble Empire the more to cherish their heritage, and to be inspired with feelings of patriotic love and reverence for their Colony as a well cared for part of that well tried and maturely built structure which is able to hold in check those warring elements that find freer exercise in other and less favored forms of Government.

The hope so flattering of easily acquiring an independence in other lands, is being supplanted by the healthy conviction, that in this Province certain success will attend the steady, persevering and industrious labor; and it is matter of gratulation that the Census Returns exhibit so large an increase of those who make farming their profession, and that the returns in agricultural wealth have been largely enhanced. The prediction has been uttered in reference to our lumbering Colonies, that when the pine lumber disappeared, the inhabitants would disappear also; but just in proportion as the woods have been converted into merchandise, the lands of our Province have been reclaimed and improved.

Very perceptible has been the progress of Agriculture within the last decade. A few years before, the knowledge of the general utility of those engaged in husbandry, so called, consisted in raising crops from the newly burned land, and experience was the instructor in properly sowing and curing the hay; but beyond this, in many localities there were but few signs of intelligent farming; a rotation of crops was neither understood nor practised nor was its necessity regarded; the art of improving the soil or at least preserving its fertility, was a secret unknown and unheeded.

Improved breeds of stock, as forming a basis of profitable farming, was disregarded; and in many places the cattle, and especially sheep and sows, were rapidly returning to their original type; the latter, by a well known individual of our Province, described as "long, pointed, long legged, ravenous looking brutes; while the cows are pictured as being equalled only by those which the King of Egypt dreamed of three thousand years ago.

The clumsy and ill constructed implements of husbandry are fast being superseded by the most improved kinds; whilst in the art of ploughing, skillful labor and general farm work, and in breeding of improved stock, the Province indicates a rapid advancement.

Such improvements are not owing entirely to casual circumstances, but may be traced in great part to the influence of a scientific knowledge, which is teaching with unmistakable effect; whilst also the emigration to our Province of men bred to and thoroughly acquainted with the main aim of profitable farming, has had a prominent influence; the practice of such has been seen and followed, and there is a more general falling to the track of that intelligent practice of husbandry pursued with success in older countries.

That much of this improved state of things is owing also to the establishment in our Province of the several Agricultural Societies cannot be doubted; the influence exerted actively or passively by the enterprising individual who, more or less, may be found connected with them, is now telling; and the more that agricultural information is diffused, the more certain and speedy will be the desired results.

The husbandman is fast learning that his pecuniary interests are concerned in learning how to farm well, and this conviction exercises a powerful stimulus in causing him to search after and embrace that course and practice which will yield the most permanent and beneficial returns.

Such a hopeful state of things may well stimulate the exertions of those to whom especially committed the care of Agriculture.

The increased wealth to our Province from an improved state of practical husbandry, may be reckoned at millions of dollars.

THE STATES.

Eight thousand French reported captured by the British and were marching on capital of Senegal, to retaliate for spoliation and banishment of Frenchmen from that State.

Four exchanged.

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Best copy available

