

THE

BLUENOSE AMATEUR.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Amateurdum.

VOL. I.
 No. 1.

NEW GLASGOW, N. S., OCTOBER, 1880.

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 25 cts. a year.

From *Our Blade*.

A MOOTED QUESTION.

"HARRAGO."

FRIEND of mine, named Blinkers, called on me the other day, and some of his remarks were so peculiar that I feel justified in presenting them to the readers of *OUR BLADE*.

Blinkers is, I regret to state, somewhat addicted to "the ardent;" and on this particular afternoon he was about half-seas over: sober enough to walk and talk straight; sufficiently inebriated to be eccentric in conversation.

Entering my room he sank into a chair, took admirable aim and squirted a torrent of tobacco juice into one of my boots, and remarked agreeably:—

"I called in to get your opinion concerning the length of the tail of Mary's lamb."

I replied that I knew nothing whatever of the matter beyond what was expressed in the song.

"Well," said Blinkers, "I really believe that unless ere long I ascertain something definite concerning this thing, I shall go crazy. I shall, indeed. Just look at my condition. Here I am, appointed by the government to find out the length of that quadruped's tail; and, as questions of the gravest importance depend upon my ascertaining the fact, I resolve to do it or die."

"First, I go to the Union Geographical Society for particulars, and they fool 'round for two or three days and finally say that the tail was amputated at a very early stage of

the lamb's existence, according to the ancient archives."

"So I get ready to make my report to the government, therein stating that the lamb's tail was undoubtedly short, when I receive a letter from a man by the name of Hunks who lives in Arizona; and Hunks goes on to state that he was acquainted with the Mary who used to own the lamb, and that she said that the lamb's tail was *long*. And Hunks adds that the proprietress of the animal ought to know more about it than all the bald-headed and idiotic geographers in this temperate zone."

"This seems plausible, so I alter my report and decide that the caudal appendage was *long*. At this juncture General Brown meets me, and says that I am mistaken, as the lamb's tail was *short*. I say to Brown, says I, 'How do you know?' Brown says to me says he, 'I saw the lamb, and its tail was *short*.'"

As Brown is a man of veracity this seems to settle the thing, so I revise my report, and am about to hand it in when a one-legged man calls on me and says that his name is Rufus Gumbs. And he goes on to show that the lamb's tail was *long*, and he that says otherwise is, according to Rufus Gumbs, a liar and a knave. 'For,' says Rufus G., 'there was once a fire in the house in which Mary resided, and it so happened that the lamb was locked up in the midst of the conflagration. Its cremation seemed imminent, but in the nick of time a heroic fireman reached his hand in and pulled the little beast out by the tail.'"

"From this incident," went on Rufus

Gumbs, 'we deduce a fact at once fruitful and indisputable, viz: that the tail was long. For if the appendage was short, how could the fireman have caught hold of it?' "

"Well, I bring myself to believe with Rufus Gumbs, and am getting up an elaborate report advancing Mr. G.'s hypothesis, when I get a letter from Major Bunker. And this letter says recent investigations in Peru go to show that the *lamb was a goat*. And if such should prove true the tail is undeniably *short*, for all goats' tails are short.

"Thus I live on undecided. I am daily met with conflicting reports. If the thing is not soon settled I shall die of nervousness, and shall be laid away in the cold earth. I shall, by jinks!"

Then Blinkers departed.

If anyone wants any lying done with neatness and despatch, let him consult Blinkers. I am convinced that Mr. B. could take the contract for lying for the entire United States, and be proud of the job.

HOW THE WIDOW CAUGHT HIM.

A GENTLEMAN of an autobiographical turn relates how he was instructed in the custom of taking toll, by a sprightly widow, during a moonlight sleigh-ride with a merry party. He says:

The lovely widow L. sat in the same sleigh, under the same buffalo robe, with me.

"Oh, oh! don't, don't!" she exclaimed, as we came to the first bridge, at the same time catching me by the arm and turning her veiled face toward me, while her little eyes twinkled through the moonlight.

"Don't what?" I asked. "I'm not doing anything."

"Well, but I thought you were going to take toll," the widow replied.

"Toll!" I rejoined. "What's that?"

"Well, I declare!" cried the widow, her clear laugh ringing out above the bells—"you pretend you don't know what toll is?"

"Indeed I don't then," I said, laughing.

"Explain, if you please."

"You never heard then," said the widow, most provokingly—"you have never heard that when we are on a sleigh-ride the gentlemen always—that is, sometimes—when they cross a bridge claim a kiss, and call it toll! But I never pay it."

I said I never heard it before; but when we came to the next bridge I claimed toll, and the widow's struggles to hold the veil over her face were not enough to tear it.

At last the veil was removed, her round, rosy face was turned directly toward mine, and in the clear light of a frosty moon the toll was taken, for the first time in my experience.

Soon we came to a long bridge, with several arches. The widow said it was of no use to resist a man who would have his own way, so she paid the toll without a murmur.

"But you won't take toll for every arch will you?" she said, so arably that I could not fail to exact all my dues.

And that was the beginning of my courtship.

BLUENOSE PERSONALS.

—Nowlan who opposes Grant for President of the B. A. P. A., (Bluenose A. P. A.) is Principal of the Westport High School, and is married.

—C. H. Gladwin who will probably be first vice of the B. A. P. A., is the champion puzzler of Canada, and has been actively connected with puzzledom since 1873, and is married.

—Geo. M. Sweet, (Dick Shunary) up for second vice, is a telegraph operator.

—Geo. E. Frye, who will undoubtedly be official editor, is a cousin to the well known editors of the celebrated *Eastern Sunbeam*.

—We don't know, but "Fin" says Louis is a tremendous punner.

—B. V. Chisholm, who expects to be Treasurer, is a farmer.

—'Rah for the B. A. P. & P. A.

The Bluenose Amateur.

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JOHN M. McDONALD, - Editor.

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EDITORIAL.

THE day of Amateurdome in Nova Scotia has at length come—and as we do not wish to look at its onward progress in silence and alone—without putting forth our hand to fondle it in its infancy—we have determined to venture upon the Journalistic sea. We therefore present to you, dear reader, this the first number of the AMATEUR, hoping that in time it may prove to be no mean addition to the cause, but may take rank among the foremost amateur journals of the day.

Our chief object in entering the Journalistic field is to help forward to the best of our ability the grand cause of amateur Journalism in Nova Scotia. We shall, however, do all in our power to entertain our readers,—aiming in the meantime to be as original as possible, for we believe it is of more credit to the editor to have one page filled with original matter than ten pages of selected stuff.

We have no desire to be engaged in any petty squabbles with other amateur papers, but shall do all we can to make the life of the AMATEUR a long, prosperous, peaceable, and honored one, and we respectfully ask

you, kind friends, to help us in our humble efforts.

The next number will be enlarged to twice this size, and the subscription price raised, so all who subscribe this month, will have a decided advantage. Promising you a better number next time, and reminding you, dear reader, that on your support greatly depends the life and welfare of the AMATEUR.

We respectfully remain,

"YE EDITOR."

ITEMS.

—To take care of your health take air.

—Hurrah for the N. S. A. P. & P. A., and Grant its President.

—The first A. P. A., ever held in Canada, convenes at Halifax, Sept. 23rd. Success to it.

—New Glasgow with a population of about 4,000, has 5 amateur papers, and an amateur Journalists' club, containing more paid up and active members than any other club in America. Query ?

—Sorry the Windsor A. J. C., was a failure ; but the *Trumpet* boys didn't go at it like us at all. Come over here till we teach you how to organize and conduct a club. Come !

—The *Detroit Free Press* talks of a hen that will loaf around for near a month on top of a nest of eggs. But if the *Free Press* man thinks it such fun, let him try it on once.

—The last number of the *Trumpet* was the best number that has yet been published. Well done.

—Say, Jimmie, why do you absent yourself from the club, when you are needed so much to take care of the minutes ? Mind the minutes, Jimmie, and don't spend them with those——girls.

—Now Georgie, like a good boy, don't let those girls keep you from our meetings any more. The Secretary is a great tatter, you know.

—Next number will contain 8 or 10 pages of reading matter and will out Nov. 10th. Look out for it.

—If the majority of the puzzlers in N. S., give us their support, a puzzle department will characterize the next number.

—Say, you reader, are you too mean to send 15 cents for a sub. to the AMATEUR for 6 months. We got your name and we'll see. Come now, cash up, and don't fall in our estimation.

—Send us 70 cents and 6 names for the AMATEUR.

—There aint a better fellow in Nova Scotia to take charge of the official organ of the N. S. A. P. A. & P. A., than Geo. E. Frye.

—N. S. A. P. & P. A.—Nova Scotia Amateur Press and Puzzlers Association.

—Another truant player is Charlie. The girls must be very attractive in his eyes. Caws he absented himself from the ice cream.

—Bruce is mad at us. Can't help it Brucie, dear, but won't you give us your subscription? Do.

—The N. A. P. A., admits Canadians in future—the best act passed at the convention.

—Amateurdom knows all about the N. G. A. J. C., already. Therefore it is unnecessary for us to give a report.

—“Why don't you come in out of the rain,” said a good-natured dominie to a ragged Irishman. “Shure its of no consequence yer riverence. Me clothes is so full of holes they can't howld wather.”

WORD HUNT.

For the best list of words formed from
STORMED,
we will give Wordsworth's works.
For second best, James Tomson.
For third best, a Magazine.
Conditions:— Open till Oct. 20th. No

proper names allowed. No list containing over 1,200 words allowed to compete.

AUTHORS ATTENTION.

For the best Sketch received from a subscriber, we will give a volume of 600 pages, entitled “The Poetical works of Wordsworth.”

For the best Sketch received from a member of the N. S. A. P. A., we will give “Hamlet, with explanations.” Second, the works of James Tomson.

For the best sketch received from a member of the N. G. A. J. C., we will give a good prize.

Open till Nov. 15th. A single Sketch cannot take more than one prize. We shall retain the right to publish all contributions sent us in competition for the prizes.

Now then, boys, here is a chance. We hope to have a large number contribute, especially Nova Scotians.

Advertisements.

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THE BLUENOSE AMATEUR.

SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. I.

NEW GLASGOW, N. S., OCTOBER, 1880.

No. 1.

ALL ABOARD FOR HALIFAX !

The N. S. A. & P. A. a reality!

GRANT WINS GLORIOUSLY !!!

A SIGNAL SUCCESS !

EXCEPT IN ATTENDANCE !!

Windsor the next Place !

Gladwin to gather up the Gains ! !

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN ! ! !

&c., &c., &c.

"All on board for Halifax !" shouted the conductor, on the morning of the 22nd. Sept., and we, accompanied by Grant, Stuart of the *Ensign*, M'Coll and the younger Munro, responded to the call, and stepped aboard, *en route* for the metropolis.

At the station we were presented with some appropriate badges by Mr. Stuart, which we immediately adjusted to our coats in such a conspicuous manner as to arrest the attention of a large number of passengers. None, however, seemed to possess curiosity enough to ask for an explanation of the badge, until about 60 miles of the journey had been covered, when a pleasant looking divine boarded the train, and, after some minutes' observation accosted one of the party.

An explanation followed, amateur papers were produced containing notices of the con-

vention to be held in Halifax, &c. A well known dissector of Blackstone joined with the clergyman in cross-examining the witnesses in the cause of Amateurdome, and having become completely convinced and somewhat interested in the case, he subscribed to some of the papers and left.

In a very short time he returned, however, with another representative of the law, who was alike made known the principal of Amateurdome, and the result was that he too subscribed "in order to get his boys interested in the cause."

By this time we had reached Halifax, and were much surprised to find none of the Haligonian ams. awaiting us. After having repaired to a hotel, and procured lodging, we spent the remainder of the evening in taking in the sights of the city. Next morning was spent in visiting the exhibition grounds and building. One of the most attractive features was a foot press used in the capacity of printing a small paper which was published during the week by some of the enterprising chaps of Halifax. After dinner we all gathered to the Y. M. C. A. Rooms. At 3 o'clock, the meeting was called to order by Geo. E. Frye, who stated the object of the meeting in a few well chosen remarks. He then read several letters from prominent amateurs, after which a short recess was called to afford the following appointed committee an opportunity of drafting a constitution, viz : Geo. E. Frye, F. A. Grant and I. N. Halliday.

When the meeting was again called to order, (C. H. Gladwin in the chair), the constitution was only about half drawn out. This was

read clause by clause, and adopted with a few amendments. The same committee was then instructed to have the remainder ready by next session.

Then followed the election of officers, which resulted as follows :

- President.....F. A. Grant.
- 1st vice-president.....R. J. Love.
- 2nd. "A. A. Stuart.
- 3rd. "L. N. Geldert.
- Recording Sect'y.....I. N. Halliday.
- Financial "J. F. Newcombe.
- Corresponding "R. M'Coll.
- Treasurer,C. H. Gladwin.
- Official Editor,Geo. E. Frye.
- Puzzle "J. M. McDonald.

It was now near six o'clock, and the meeting adjourned to meet again at 7½.

F. A. Grant, called the meeting to order at the appointed time. The remainder of the constitution had been drafted, and was read and accepted.

After considerable important business had been conducted, the meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock, to convene again at Windsor, ("if convenient,") in January.

And thus ended the N. S. A. P. & P. A., convention a success in everything but attendance. It is to be hoped, however, that this deficiency will be overbalanced next time, and that there will be a good turn-out at Windsor in January.


NOTES.

—We've found out what kept A. M. H., from the convention.

—The Association's new paper—the *Tablet*, will be out the 15th. inst. Size, 4 pages, 3 columns to a page.

—A new amateur paper, will soon appear from Truro. R. Grant, editor. Next!

—Any person in any way connected with Amateurdom, is eligible to membership of the N. S. A. P. & P. A.



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