

BRANIGAN'S CHRONICLES AND CURIOSITIES.

Nothing extenuate, nor set down ought in malice.—Shak.

Vol. I.—No. 23.

HAMILTON, C.W., SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1859.

PRICE, TWO-PENCE.

Wellington Square, April 2, 1859.

To the Editor of the Chronicles.

DEAR SIR,—Let the Legislators of Canada beware. Let them weigh well the consequences of passing a measure, the very announcement of which causes the most bitter dissension through the country, and even breaches of the public peace. I will be a little more explicit, and state, that the bare proposal of the Postmaster General to pension servants of the Government in their old days, has produced a scene in our usually peaceful village to which for months past it has been a stranger.

In my narration of the occurrence I shall adopt the dramatic style, merely pre-mising, that of the parties concerned, (Messrs. Teapot and Skeesicks) the former is a fine old-school gentleman, and a government official, and the latter a scion of our own Canada, who though naturally pretty sharp, and by no means one of the class upon which Solomon's proverbs come down so heavily, is far better posted upon steam saw "Mills" than on the public affairs of the country. In short he is a "plum," but whether of the Blue, Egg or Gage variety, I leave to some one better skilled in Horticulture to determine.

SCENE—Brick Store at the Corner; time—2 p. m.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.—Messrs. Teapot and Skeesicks sitting by the stove, talking of things in general—Boss away; one clerk at the door, picking his teeth after dinner; the other treading on the tail of Teapot's dog, and accompanying the consequent grunts and short howls, by whistling "Vilikins and Dinah.

Teapot—By the way Mr. Skeesicks have you read the announcement of the proposed pension measure.

Skeesicks—Yes, its a most scandalous piece of wastefulness and corruption.

Teapot—And what in the devil is there so corrupt and wasteful about it? Don't the faithful servants of the government deserve a pension for age, after wearing themselves out for the public good?

Skeesicks—Any man who has brains enough to be a faithful government servant, knows sufficient to lay up a competency; and the Lord knows they get chances enough to do so. [Just then enters Mr. Caughter for a dollar's worth of sugar.] Skeesicks continues: Do you

know, Caughter, that out of that dollar's worth you pay the price of one pound to keep up old fogies, like Teap. here? you young ass you?

Skeesicks—Yes, and an old fool into the bargain.

Up jumps Teapot, cracks Skeesicks over the head with his cane; Skeesicks grabs the cane, and the tussle commences. Prints, hats, boots, bonnets, raisin boxes and brass kettles fly about in awful confusion. A cloud of dust hides the belligerents from view; and as it clears away for a moment, reveals the fact that one of Teapot's optics is seriously damaged,—while Skeesicks ear looks as if Teapot had wished by abbreviating it to deprive him of one claim to his *asentine* character. Both parties take breath for a new struggle, when the junior clerk, whose musical efforts have been so rudely interrupted, announces that the boss is coming.—Knowing the objections that gentleman would probably have against his store being converted into a prize ring, Messrs. Teapot and Skeesicks leave in a hurry, looking unutterable things, and leaving the impression on the minds of spectators

"That this dread feud, as prophets say, Will cost more blood another day."

When it comes off you shall be apprized by

Very respectfully yours,

FOXY.

For the Chronicles and Curiosities

DEAR BRANIGAN,

I promised you the result of an Argus glance at our late Tavern License By-law; and I mean to go over some of its clauses without much ceremony, which course, I believe, printers like best:

First, the Corporation of the City of Hamilton enact as follows:

I. "All By Laws relating to the regulation of inns, taverns, ale houses, &c., are repealed."

II. "That from and after the passing of this act it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to keep for sale by retail, on any premises whatever, any wine or spiritous liquor &c., or to open and keep any saloon &c., where any wines or spirits are sold by retail; or to open or keep any saloon, eating house; ordinary or grocery, where fermented or manufactured liquors, not being wines or spiritous liquors, are sold to be drunk therein, or to be sold by

retail in quantities of not less than one quart, not to be drunk therein, or to open and keep any temperance house or hotel, or house of public entertainment, where wine or spiritous or fermented liquors are not sold." Now sir, if this is not absolute restriction, (and it is too bad to restrict temperance houses) I do not understand what is. But the temperance men may open houses or they may keep houses, but they must not do both, for if they do both then the law reaches them. The liquor men have but one little hole left them to creep out of—they may sell, but they must take precious good care not to keep for sale, or this restrictive gentleman will nail them. Then sec. II goes on "And if shall not be lawful for any person to keep, or have in his her or their possession, or on his, her or their premises, any billiard table or bowling alley, set up for hire or gain, directly or indirectly, nor to have any such billiard table or bowling alley in any house or place of public resort, whether the same be used for hire or gain or not, unless he, she or they shall have first obtained a license from the Inspector of Licenses for the city." Mark the ye men from John O'Groats to the Lands End—and ye men from Ottawa to Port Huron! It is good for children that the word person only applies to one, for if it were otherwise they would be entirely restrained from holding or keeping up their places of amusement, unless they took out and paid for a license so to do from our corporation, and children do not generally go single handed to any amusement; so that we may fairly set it down from the By Law that any number of persons, but not one person, may lawfully do or keep any of the aforesaid without a license. Perhaps it was the printer, or some one else, who on purpose or by mistake caused the error to be there. But no matter how the blunder came, it is there—and how or when is it to be rectified? The first portion of this clause of the By Law, in reference to liquors, saloons, &c. up to the second—"And it shall not be lawful &c.," according to all rules of construction is an absolute restriction, inasmuch as the last words "unless he, she or they shall have first obtained a license, cannot by any rules of syntax or grammar be made or supposed to apply to it, nor to any portion of the clause but from the last "and it shall not be lawful, &c., downwards; and if they do not apply to the whole clause from the beginning then the first part of the clause up to the words to which they do apply, stands an absolute restriction. To be more plain, I will put a case in point. It is the same as if it were said—It shall not be

lawful for *Chronicles* to sell liquor, and it shall not be lawful for *Growler* to grumble unless he first obtains a license so to do. Now could you make out from reading this that these licensing words apply to *Chronicles* as well as *Growler*. No, I am sure you will say at once that *Chronicles* is absolutely restricted from selling liquor, while *Growler* has the privilege of taking out a license to grumble. Then read section II and the restriction of intoxicating liquors throughout all creation, and nowhere in particular will it be more manifest to you. And if this clause amounts to a restriction or prohibition then it is unlawful, because it has not been submitted to the vote or for the approval of the ratepayers, as the law requires.

Yours,

AROUS.

Hamilton, April, 1859.

Hamilton, April 6, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—As I consider you are one of those who are "posted up" on general subjects, I take the liberty of asking a few questions, on a matter of vital importance to me. They are these: I become a sponsor for some of the children of a fellow citizen and co-religionist, who at that time belonged to the Catholic church. Since then, however, he has renounced that faith, and connected himself with one of the dissenting denominations, whether from pure motives or the love of applause, I leave it to his own conscience to determine. Now, sir, I wish to know how I am to be relieved of the sacred obligations of a sponsor, in view of these facts.

[Although our opinion is always freely given on matters relating to the public welfare, we wish to be a little more guarded on matters of religion. We do not profess to be a theologian; but would refer our correspondent to the Rev Mr. Geddes or Bishop Farrel, who will relieve his conscience on this matter.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NIMROD—Your enquiry must stand over until next week, our sporting editor being absent to purchase a newly discovered ape, as a match for the *Growler*.

A. B. C.—Your conundrum is scarcely up to the mark. Try again.

W. I. D.—No proclamation has yet been issued.

ELIZA—Yours is rejected, it is too personal and no communications of that description will be inserted; for a lady you write a very masculine hand.

BORE—We thank you, and will be glad to hear from you again, all shall appear in time.

Our Milton correspondents will find themselves duly attended to.

If an earthquake were to engulf England to-morrow, (said Douglas Jerrold,) the English would manage to meet and dine somewhere among the rubbish, just to celebrate the event.

BRANIGAN'S

Chronicles & Curiosities,

Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.
SHAKESPEARE.

HAMILTON, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1859.

FREE LABOR vs. PRISON LABOR.

In commencing the publication of the *Chronicles*, we had an aim above that of gratifying any private or personal spleen, that of benefitting the community, by pointing to evils which from time to time arise in the administration of our Provincial as well as our municipal affairs. A few years since we personally incurred the displeasure of not a few, by endeavoring to open up a new field for the profitable employment of those committing light offences against our laws, those who are poor and unable to find employment, and for the relief of our suffering fellow citizens generally—in the shape of an *Industrial Farm*. The land was purchased and prepared for cultivation; but owing to the diversity of opinion then existing in the minds of those gentlemen then forming our city government, little or nothing else was accomplished. Subsequent depression in all kinds of trade have convinced us, that had our advice been then taken—the farm placed in the hands of a proper and efficient manager, and the labor of our Police Court criminals employed upon it,—our city authorities should this winter have had a store of provisions at a very cheap rate, wherewith to relieve the necessities of many of our indigent poor. But no, the land lies almost totally untilled, while the city is paying principal and interest for it, and the offenders sentenced at our Police Courts are being fed at our expense. It is not our intention just now to go into this subject at length, for we have much to say on it. We may, however, just remark, that we are bitter opponents to the practice of encouraging a competition between free and prison labor. Indeed, we believe not in the practice of teaching scoundrels of every degree in crime, those branches of mechanism by which honest artizans support themselves and families, and a knowledge of which they acquire after years of almost unrequited toil, and great expense to their parents or guardians. No, we advocate the employment of our crim-

inals, who are serving a term of imprisonment whether of long or short duration, at labor which will not bring our mechanics into competition with them; and which will not, after their term of confinement shall have expired, bring them into daily contact with honest mechanics who pursue their legitimate occupation. We think it advisable to call the attention of our Legislature to this evil, with a view to its removal. Our Provincial Penitentiary, we believe, turns out a fair article of furniture, which, as a matter of course, is done at a very much smaller cost than it could be manufactured by any of our master cabinet makers—and they, in consequence, are unable to compete. So with the article of boots and shoes, large quantities of which flood our market from our own and the prisons of our adjoining neighbors. This question opens up a field which an intelligent legislator might occupy advantageously.

The delicacy and refinement of feeling which pervades the columns of the *Growler*, received a more forgivable illustration than ever in its last issue. We do not like to copy vulgar slang or Billingsgate vernacular into our columns; but cannot help asking the meaning of "Gin pig Contributors, and "Mud sucking Dribblers." We also perceive some jack-knife carvings of a pig, a fox and a dog—the latter meant to represent the *Growler*,—but the animal is full-grown, which is a mistake. It should have been a puppy, as much like a cur as possible. Wait till our new monkey arrives, we'll match him.

A DANGEROUS NUISANCE.—We have received frequent complaints from pedestrians who promenade along King street, when the toils of the day are over, of the risk they run of having their eyes poked out, or head knocked off by the Knights of the yard-stick and tape, by the unceremonious manner in which they reveal their window shutters to the gas light. Why don't our city authorities enforce the By-law relating to the matter? Are laws made only to be broken? This is only one of the matters that are merely winked at. We will apply the rod on the shoulders deserving hereafter.

Never confer favors upon the rich, for you will not even receive gratitude in return.

To the Editor of the Chronicles & Curiosities.

DEAR BRANIGAN—As the late freshets have done considerable damage in our little town, and kept us all within doors, nothing of any importance has transpired of late, until the waters of the flood fell, and the crows of our town could find a place for the soles of their feet.

King Pharaoh being absent, much to the satisfaction of all our citizens, it was decided by our worthy Town Council that they would go to Egypt and by corn for the widows and orphans of our land, as the famine waxed sore therein.

And the good men of the Council proposed that we would go at once and buy food for our widows and orphans, that they might be relieved in the time of their want; so we will give to the laborers of the town employment to repair the damage that the late floods have done in our streets, that they may be enabled to go down to Egypt to buy the thing needful; and lo! it will be well with us to do so, that the widow and orphan may find relief at our hands.

While the good men of the Council were thus speaking, behold the great Spoke right or wrong, opened his great mouth and said unto the chief magistrate: Oh! sir, if we do this thing it will not be pleasing in the eye of King Pharaoh, therefore we will let alone and shut our ears to the cries of those who are in want; and the chief magistrate did as the great Spoke commanded, and caused the physicians and the maker of the tabernacle to agree to do so like wise, and said with a loud voice: Let us do what we think will be pleasing in the eyes of King Pharaoh, at his return. But the good men of the Council cried out and said, We will not see our fellow men suffering in the land; we will yet insist upon giving relief to the poor and destitute. We are fearless of the frowns of King Pharaoh—we are not jobbers, nor yet the born thralls of John "the immaculate." We will see that the people's rights are not trampled upon. We are free-men.

While they were yet speaking, behold once more did the great spoke open his mouth and said to the good men of the Council: Oh! ye workers of metal and of wood, verily I say unto you, I know that ye are a stiff necked people, that ye will not hearken to the devices of King Pharaoh; I know that ye will not agree to deepen the river Jordan, as the King and Chief Magistrate doth command, but lo! I tell you there is no funds to buy corn.

And moreover the Council adjourned for fifteen minutes, to give the great Spoke an opportunity of making a financial statement before the good men of the Council and the people, and when the fifteen minutes were ended, behold the great Spoke again opened his mouth, and read from his black board, as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Town of M. Dr. | |
| To cash paid for removing nuisance as per order..... | \$0 3 |
| Do. do. for whiskey at election..... | 12½ |
| Do. do. 3 Creepy stools t 6 cts..... | 15 |
| Do. do. light in council room..... | 10 |
| Do. do. ½ cord wood, \$2,00..... | 25 |
| Do. do. building crossways..... | 2,00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$2, 65½ |
| Do. Cr. | |
| By cash on account..... | 12½ |
| Balance due..... | \$2, 52½ |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$2, 65 |

And the citizens of Milton presented the great spoke with a new pair of leather goggles, as a token of regard for his active ity, and light he threw upon the subject in question; and the men of authority applauded him, and the dogs of the town opened their mouths in response, and said, worthy art thou to inspect our rights, inasmuch as we might imagine ourselves living in the days of the "ass" minus *Baal-am*. And the great Spoke cried out, Behold! I will cause the man from the northern regions hereafter to hold his peace, and the rest of our doings, behold you shall see them recorded in the *Chronicles* of Branigan.

Yours, etc.
FREESTONEK.

Milton, April 5th, 1859.

To the Editor of Branigan's Chronicles.

IF, Mr. Branigan, you are in favor of the boys coming on to get drunk, when or how they like, it only shews that you maintain our rights, and despise vulgarity. This conduct for which you have a wide and well merited reputation, has emboldened me to address a reply to you, with respect to the charges that were made against me—as Treasurer of the Milton Bachelor Society—in your *Chronicles* of March 26th.

It would have been as well if the two creatures (who are a self appointed committee of enquiry) had investigated my affairs before stigmatising me as a defaulter, for I had accounted satisfactorily to every member of the society but one (and he is a drunkard in the pay of the Dodger), for every farthing of the society's money I have received or paid. I do not think the affair would have been gone into at all, if John the immaculate, had not been taught naughty tricks by George Brown, Esq. M. P. P., and seen the effect they had on poor Cayley. He thinks to Cayleyise me, but I have got my friend old VanVillian on the committee, and I assure you John will have to look sharp or he will find himself in the goal or lunatic asylum, in less than no time. The charges are a mere nothing, hardly worth my while to refute them; first as to "erasures and interlinea-

tions," I can say that the manuscript of all great men abound with them, and they clearly shew a disposition to improve my books. The half-pint of whiskey charged more than was consumed in the refreshment account is shewn by me as a balance on hand in 1857, and I can assure my friends that it is getting milder and better every day, and will drink none the worse for having been paid for in advance. The second charge of having purchased a marriage license for our chairman before he required it, is most ungallant and uncalled for; the ladies approve of it, and every one knows it had to be done, for it is so stated in the bond. Why then should he not be induced to be spliced at once, when he has a latent power of productiveness in him, rather than wait till he could not help it? When a lady is in the case all other things give place, except you John, and you are most strange in your immaculate conceptions of this, as well as other things. If you could act as a man, you would have taken your place (if not with pistols at least) in the house, rather than have dodged A. P. McD-n-ds case like a coward and a sneak. The greatest fool made on the 1st April, was a farmer from the upper part of this county, who came to town expecting to find you an honest man. The third charge about the candles is as mean as the rest, and well becomes you; fortunately I have them all right, not a single candle has been consumed by me, or any of my friends; I hope the society will make you a present of them, on condition that you use your *Stewarts* as a candlestick, and then light them all at once in order to find that amount of evidence, which shall make your *Stems* pamphlet when published worth: 12½ cents.

I am Sir,
Your obedient servant. ¶
THE TREASURER.

Reward of \$100 and Caution.

We see the above placard through the city in connection with a recent fire, at which the hose was cut by some one who has succeeded in dodging the officer. Now we can easily conceive that the \$100 reward would be very acceptable in these hard times, but why a man should also receive a CAUTION, for doing his duty we are at a loss to know. We hope the delinquent will be discovered, and that the recipient of the REWARD and CAUTION will only receive the latter, in reference to the way of spending the former.

A NOVEL FEAT.—At Amsterdam there has been a regatta of young men, who walk the water in shoes called podoschape. Herr Oschner has accomplished the feat of walking up the Rhine from Rotterdam to Cologne, where he arrived on Sunday, August 22d, having started from Rotterdam on the 16th.

Advertisements.

BRANIGAN'S
MARKET STABLES,
ON THE MARKET SQUARE.

THESE STABLES are the Most Commodious in the city, and were originally built and owned by J. B. MATHEWS, Esq. JOHN AUSTIN latterly kept the premises, which are Capable of ACCOMMODATING
150 SPANS OF HORSES

In the Most Comfortable Manner, and at VERY MODERATE CHARGES. Farmers and others attending the Market can always have their horses under their eye while selling their produce. Careful hostlers in attendance. Stables open on Sunday, and free for the use of parties from the country attending Church, but subject to their own care.

HAY FOR SALE.

A Large Quantity of excellent Hay always on hand, and for sale in small quantities, at Market Rates. OATS and BRAN also on hand and for sale. T. BRANIGAN.
Hamilton, April 1, 1859.

DUPER & DUPER.—A female astrologist was arrested in New York last week, for practising her arts, and the investigation showed that her receipts were from \$50 to \$75 a day. Her customers were all ladies who were in quest of husbands, ladies who were about to leave their husbands for other men, ladies who wanted information, as to where their husbands spent their evenings, and whether they were attached to any other women or not.

FEMINOLOGY.—A queer gatherer of statistics says, that out of one hundred and fifty-eight pretty women whom he met in the streets of fashionable resorts in a given time, one hundred were sucking their parasol handles.

In an omnibus, four young ladies out of seven invariably look through the front window at the horses.

At a party, seven ladies out of ten prefer vanilla ice cream, while only one in ten habitually eats orange water ice.

The stouter a lady is the more she rolls her eyes up while waltzing.

The smaller a lady is so much the more she affects sun flower rosettes, enormous flounces, and extra-sized ornaments. Diminutive ladies invariably admire giant-like gentlemen—and vice versa.

Ladies who are greatly admired by their own sex, are seldom viewed in the same light by gentlemen. Some ladies speak of ladies beauties, and gentlemen's beauties.

It is a curious fact that those women who have made the most acquaintances during long course of years have by far the best memory for faces and persons.

OUR LETTER BOX.—All letters and communications intended for the editor or for publication, should be addressed Box No. 120, Hamilton P. O.

Published and Sold by the Proprietor, T. BRANIGAN, at his Saloon, McNab Street, (Market Square,) and may be had at all the city Book Stores—Price, THREE CENTS.



ORIGINAL WHITTLINGS

BY JACK KNIFE.

When does a biped become a quadruped?

When he plays at *All-fours*.

Why was lawyer MacM——y, when his barber's bill was presented, like the first town west of Hamilton?

Because he was a *dun'd ass*, (Dundas.)

Why did the secretary of the Fire Brigade refuse the other night to pay the Chief the money he received for the different companies?

Because he expected to see that evening a *Miss-Appropriation*.

Why was D'Arcy Magee's lecture in Dundas the other night like a miller's smock?

Because it was exceedingly *flowery*.

Why is a fashionable woman of the present day like an extinguished candle?

Because she's *puffed out*.

Who did old Father Time find most difficult to kill?

Key, for he had to use more than one *Sickle* to accomplish it.

Why are Rome and Athens like our publication?

Because they are curious cities. (Curiosities).

Why is a fatigued man like a wheel?

Because he is tired.

When is punishing falsehood on the street like converting one musical instrument into another?

When you knock a liar (lyre) into a gutter (guitar).

Painful suspense—being held up by the nose.

We insert the above, and to prevent ulterior consequences, inform our readers that we have placed the writer in a private lunatic asylum, in which there is but one cell now vacant. The friends of the *Growler* should note this, or it may soon be occupied.

Why is a contented man of great wealth like a ghost?

Because he is a happy rich 'un, (apparition.)

Why is one of our leading hardware merchants like Disraeli?

Because he is a Jew's son (Juson.)

It is currently reported that a certain gallant captain—grown *Gray* in the service of his country—has found it expedient to look out for some protection from the jeers of the *little boys* of Hamilton, who (overjoyed at his defeat by Branigan) daily annoy him with such unmannerly questions as *Soager* will you buy a dog? thereby no doubt intending to throw some slur on the memory of his ever-to-be-lamented, deceased "Doctor."

It is furthermore reported that negotiations have commenced for the purchase of the celebrated dog, "Bose," whose penchant for swill-fed beef, recently caused a *falling off* in his rear department, to act as his body guard.

The price fixed by his present owner is the amount of the bill due for attendance, etc., on the aforesaid "doctor" during his illness.

We trust if the purchase is made, a liquidation of the debt will be effected on the Bar of the Black Horse Inn.

Thompson vs. Clark.

DIED, at his residence in this city, on Thursday Morning, at 1 a. m., HIRAM CLARKE, Esq. an ancient and respected resident of this city. Aged 007.

Friends are required to attend his Funeral on purpose to see him sodded down. He died from the effects of sawing his own neck off with the rough edge of his shirt-collar, and mainly according to the evidence adduced at the Coroner's inquest, in consequence of the above suit. He leaves a large family totally unprovided for, to lament his timely loss. In reference to the above, his friends, at a meeting held on the same day, unani:ously agreed to erect a monument to his memory. Subscriptions will be received by James C-h-l, Secretary to the committee appointed at the meeting.

GOOD TIMES.—Matters are improving; in our recent constitutional walks we have observed any quantity of cows and pigs perambulating the streets, anxiously (it appeared to us) looking for an owner. Some of our poor neighbors should see to this, or the child of some civic dignitary will be injured by them, and their removal follow, or perhaps of them might gore an Alderman! We shudder. Friends remove them, meat is getting dear.

What is the reward of disinterested friendship? It is the consciousness of having done your duty.

Business, said one, should never yield to pleasure.

Religion said, I must never yield to either.