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"salus populi suprema est lex."

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J. ALBERT BLACK, Editor and Publisher.

WHOLE NO.--408

Selected Tale.

HIS LUCKY NUMBER.

"Every one has a lucky number," said the old gentleman. "Mia is twenty-one. Twenty-nine might have been, would have been, an unlucky number for me. Yet I didn't know it; both were painted in black letters on a white oval. Twenty-one--twenty-nine. Not much difference, you see--21, 20; very like, indeed; and yet because I chose the number without a flourish and a long leg, I am here to-day, and have had a long and happy life. I should have been the occupant of a suicide's grave ever so many years ago had I chosen twenty-nine."

card, paper or letter with me. I had torn the latter's mark from my beaver. As I ascended the hotel I felt to speak like one going to his own funeral. A parting waiter bowed before me. "I was an ordinary traveller to them, that was evident. "It was late in the evening; the place was an air of repose. Laughter and a faint tink of glasses in an inner apartment told of some conviviality. One old man read his newspaper before the fire. Nothing else was astir. "I asked for a room. The clerk nodded. "Do you care what floor?" he asked. "I should like to be on the second," he said. "Number twenty-nine is empty," he said, and tossed a key to the waiter, whom I followed at once. "We reached the room by two flights of stairs. At its door the waiter paused. "Thought he said twenty-nine," he muttered. "The key is twenty-one!" "Then open twenty-one with it," I said. "I don't care for the number of the room," "No sir--to be sure sir," said the waiter, and passed along a few steps further. "Twenty-one," he said, and unlocking a door, pushed it open. "Shall I bring you anything, sir?" he inquired. "I answered 'No,' and he left me, having put the candle on my bureau. "The hour had come. As I shut the door a heavy sigh escaped me. Alas! that life had become so woful a thing to me that I should desire to be rid of it. "In the dim light of my one candle I paced the floor, and thought bitterly of the girl I loved so dearly. "It was in the days of curtained beds. The bed in this room was hung with dark chintz; so were the windows. Over the looking-glass was a portrait of a lady in puffed sleeves and high comb at the top by way of ornament. There were four stiff chairs, and a brass stool, and tongs stood guard beside the grate. I faced myself lying dead on the bed amidst all these belongings, and felt sorry for myself. Then I took my pistols from my portmanteau, and leaving the door unlocked--for why should I put the landlord to the trouble of breaking it open?--I lay down upon the bed, drew the curtains, took a pistol in each hand, and as true as I now speak to you, had the middle of each to a tone, when some one opened the door, and-- "There, now, Jessie," said a voice; "I told you you didn't lock it." "I did," said another voice; "and sent the key to the office by the chambermaid."

Miscellany.

The Family Album.

There is a sort of delicious joy in looking over a family album, especially if it is a very old album with a sprained back, which occasionally and unexpectedly drops through your fingers, leaving a couple of cousins in one hand, and three aunts in the other, and the balance of the family under the chair. The first picture is of an old gentleman with an expression of weary gentleness in his face as if he were engaged in dodging a wild bill, and was somewhat doubtful of the result. Opposite him is the grandnephew, a patient-looking lady in a black dress, with a book in one hand and a pair of spectacles in the other. There is a fable, but well-meaning effort to look safe in her face. On the next leaf is a middle aged man looking as if he had been suddenly shot through the roof of a starch factory, and had landed in the middle of a strange country. Opposite is the picture of his wife, who, having heard a rumor of the catastrophe, has made up her mind to be prepared for the worst. Then follow the children--little girls looking so prim as to make you squirm, and little boys with their eyes on their noses, and with an expression on their face of unwearily solemnity. Then follow uncles, taken in their overcoats, with a spreading inclination in their clothes, hair and face, as if they were bound to get their money's worth; and aunts with warts on their noses, and varnish in their hair, and preposterous lace collars about their necks. Then there is a bashful young man peering opposite an aggressive young lady, whom heaven and some married women have designed for each other. There are also the pictures of cousin Aleck and his young wife, who stopped here when on their tour, and the young man looks at him without retiring at once and registering a terrible vow never to get married. Besides these is the picture of the man who lived next door for eight years, at the end of which time his wife died, and he moved to Illinois with the children, and is now worth some fifty thousand dollars. He has been photographed in his hat, which is one too large for him, and which gives him an appearance of having murdered his aunt and concealed the body. Then there are two or three fine looking cousins of no particular identity, and several broken-spirited women with babies in their arms--directly or indirectly related to the owners of the album; and the exhibition closes.--Danbury News.

Billings on his "Ancestry."

SOLOMAN BILLINGS--HIS MEMORANDUM. Solomon Billings was born the 29th of May, 1322, old style. He was known for and near for his chunks or wisdom, but, like Solomon or old, he could talk wisdom better than he could do it. This was the way with all the wise men I have met lately. Solomon Billings was a little slipper, but he managed to get thru life without slipping down much, and died knowing him well. He was sad, but all who knew him well he chuk full of wisdom; he could tell, by looking at the eggs how much a goslin would weigh before it was set, and when the best time was to set a hen or a gate-post. Sol's mouth was full of wisdom; itening couldn't strike a tree, just for fun, but what he would preach a moral sermon

from the text. He was a prudent man, and what he did know, and what the least bit uncertain of what he didn't know, I find in digging down low the hard pan of Solomon, my ancestor, that he had a grate deal of vanity, a large amount of impudence, a good supply of ink, and, just the things, for all the world, to make a wise fool out of. He was an ass, and I look back upon him as one who has departed this life. Adow, Solomon, my ancestor.

Valuable Car Load.

One of the most valuable consignments that ever passed "across the continent" arrived at Chicago yesterday afternoon. One freight car contained goods whose value exceeded \$2,000,000. The enormous cost would be in itself a circumstance worthy of note, but the peculiar character of the goods gives the consignments a very high value. The goods were purchased in Yokohama by the French Government, and shipped to San Francisco Dec. 15. Only three days were lost in transferring them to the freight car, and Dec. 18 the precious package commenced their trans-continental journey.

Miscellany.

The Family Album.

In this country very few are familiar with the silkworm, and can have no idea of the appearance of the eggs. In England, where the climate is less subject to extremes of temperature, the silk worm is as common a pet as the canary. Boys and girls all boast a box of silkworms, and takes as much pride in winding off the golden thread from the cocoon as the youth of this country in the possession of marbles and such toys. The silkworm's egg is about one-quarter the size of a pin's head, and the reader may gain an idea of the number of eggs now on their way to Paris, when he learns that on this one car there are nine and a half tons of eggs. The eggs are packed in boxes, larger upon layer, and placed in bright tin boxes, which are in turn covered with matting. The car is kept at a temperature below the freezing point, and no light is admitted. The matting covered boxes are piled on either side. There is nothing to be seen there but matting, and the appearance of the boxes is certainly not indicative of the value of their contents. This is the first attempt yet made to import silk worms via the United States, and if human foresight allows anything there is every reason to look for success.--Chicago Times Dec. 26

What Causes Hard Times.

Too many spend money, and too few earn it. Too much money is spent wastefully and uselessly, and too little saved and made productive and accumulative. We buy too much abroad that we ought to produce at home. We buy too much that we don't pay for cash down--too much of what we buy being what we do not actually need. We are too wasteful, know too little how to economize, and have too little disposition to do so. We are too speculative, unscrupulous and actually dishonest in our efforts to make money. Too many of us prefer idleness to industry, and too few of us know how to work and derive pleasure and profit from our labor. We spend too much time learning what is not useful and too little informing ourselves upon the methods of promoting our material prosperity.

PRESERVING SUGAR.

"Old Subscriber" asks what he can use to preserve shingles on a roof. I reply we extract the following from the Manufacturer and Builder: "Take a potash barrel or large tub, and put into it one barrel of wood ashes, five pounds of alum, and as much salt as will dissolve in the mixture. Make the liquor quite warm, and put into it many shingles as can be conveniently washed at once, stir them up, and when well soaked, take them out and put in more; renew the liquor as necessary. Then lay the shingles in the usual manner. After they are laid, take the liquor that is left, put lime enough into it to make white-wash, and if any coloring is desirable, add ochre, spanish brown, lamp-black, &c., and apply to thereof with a brush or an old broom. This wash may be renewed from time to time, salt and lye

are excellent preservatives of wood. It is well known that leach-tubs, troughs, and other articles used in the manufacture of potash never rot. They become saturated with alkali, turn yellowish inside, and remain impervious to the weather.

Agricultural.

Establishing a Cheese Factory.

We have occasional enquiries from parties proposing to erect a cheese factory. Sometimes the circumstances are such that we can give, positively, the advice--Don't. Where there is little prospect of securing the milk of at least 200 cows; where the land is evidently ill adapted to grass; where there are unfortunate neighborhood quarrels of jealousy, or where there is now a factory within reasonable distance, we would strongly dissuade any parties from building a factory.

Where land is well adapted to grazing, and farmers have some fitness for taking care of cows and milk, and there is a certainty of securing the milk of 200 cows, with a prospect of doubling the number within two or three years, a cheese factory under good management, in all ordinary cases, proves a good investment.

Contrary to the opinions of many good men--so able an authority as Mr. Willard among the number--we do not believe the best mode of establishing a factory is to have it under the control of a joint stock company. In a large majority of cases we believe it better that the building and fixtures should be owned by a dairy farmer in the neighborhood and the cheese manufactured under his direction. We find a natural feeling among many farmers that they would prefer to have the proprietor of the factory purchase the milk at a fixed price rather than to have it manufactured for them. There are advantages in this plan, and it is successfully followed in many cases. It is objected that the patrons will not take so good care of the milk. Rejection of any not properly cared for will remedy this, but at cost of land for feedings sometimes. If patrons prefer this plan they must not expect the highest possible price. If the proprietor takes the risk of losing if cheese should fall to a very low price, the patrons must take the risk of loss if cheese should sell at any high prices.

The man who furnishes the milk of 25 to 50 cows of his own certainly has as much interest in having the factory properly conducted as any one else. The factory building need not be complicated in plan, nor very costly. A comfortable room for manufacturing and good curing rooms are needed. The curing rooms should be dry, warm in spring and fall and cool in summer. Running water near at hand is very convenient but not at all essential. A well with windmill or steam pump is much more common in the west than is a spring or stream of water at the factory. There is always a possibility of failure, and it is well to place the building in a position where it will be convenient for some other purpose if cheese-making should be abandoned. If there should be circumstances which make it not probable that such a change may be made, the building may be cheaply constructed. At least one fair-sized room should be plastered, oiled, or double walled in some way. If sales of cheese are made throughout the season when they are about 30 days old, 300 cheese would be as many as would need storage at one time in a factory of 200 cows.

The outfit for cheese-making need not be very costly, and at first there is no necessity for expending more than is really necessary. The total cost for building and fixtures may range at any place from \$1,000 upward. Of course at the figure named the building would be rough and cheap, and some convenience for working might be lacking. For \$1,500 to \$2,000 a very creditable factory for the milk of 200 to 300 cows could be provided. There is no little difficulty in securing competent cheese-makers, either from New York or the dairy regions of the North-west. One skilled workman can direct the operations of even a very large factory.

In the North-west, when cheese is made for the patrons, a charge of about

two cents a pound is made by the proprietor of the factory. Usually, we believe, this does not include selling the cheese. This season the price paid for milk where this was purchased outright did not vary much in the North-west from about eight mills to one cent a pound. If this plan be decided on, we think it fairer for both parties to have a scale of prices for different months. Milk is worth more in spring and fall than in midsummer.

We may say that, in conversation with officers of the North-west Dairy-men's Association, we found the above views in general, held, although they are not to be considered as endorsing all of them.

We give below answers by X. A. Wallers, in Rural New Yorker, to enquiries as to starting a cheese factory for milk of 600 to 1,000 cows in North-central Illinois--

- 1. The cost of factory and appliances will be from \$5,000 to \$8,000, according to cost of material, labour, and the manner in which the structure is finished and fitted up. 2. Probably the best mode of starting a factory in new districts is upon the joint-stock plan, since it makes a number of persons more directly interested in the enterprise, thereby securing reliable patrons. 3. Experienced cheese-makers can be had from New York, and a good factory manager can be had at from \$70 to \$100 per month of the cheese-making season. 4. Cheese is now being made in New York at the factories, all expenses being paid by the company or factory manager, at \$1.40 to 1.75 per 100 pounds of cheese. 5. The probable yield of an average fair lot of common cows will be, say, from 350 to 400 pounds per cow for the season. 6. Three acres of good land ought to keep a cow for the year. It often takes more land to support a cow, depending upon the natural fitness of the land for grass and the manner in which it is managed, the season, &c., &c. We can give no more definite answer. 7. Calves and hogs can be kept in connection with cheese darying, and they very advantageously used for this purpose.--Western Farmer.

Correspondence.

We usually allow a considerable degree of latitude in the use of correspondents' opinions on matters of public interest, but we do not admit any responsibility for them. We reserve the right of abridging, condensing, or omitting any communications that may be deemed inadvisable by the editor.

For the Amherst Gazette.

MR. EDITOR--Dear Sir: As an election is about to take place for members to serve in the House of Commons you will oblige me by giving space for a few lines and I will be as brief as possible. I think it is the duty of the electors of Cumberland to consider well what they are doing, without any respect to party feelings, as the public business of the country now stands. When Nova Scotia was independent of Canada our case was very different from what it is now. As Nova Scotia is but a small item in the Dominion and her influence small, I think it will be wise to send the smartest statesman that we can get, and it is an old saying and I believe a true one: "Set a rogue to watch a rogue."

As respects this election, I think it was well called for. If some of the members have got their seats by Sir Hugh Allan's money, it is no reason that honest men that have been fairly elected, and some of them twice within the last two years, should be put to the trouble and expense of this election. I understand that Mr. Mackenzie intends to have a party Government and House of Commons, but if so I believe it will be the first that ever was in Canada, and I think will be the last. If you judge by their first act, we have no reason to hope for much good and I think if ever a Government was deserving a vote of want of confidence it is the present one and it ought to be given by the country, if not by the House of Commons.

For the Amherst Gazette.

DEAR SIR--The polls have been suddenly sprung upon us in the dead of winter, and we have to select a person to represent us at Ottawa. It is very important, in this crisis, that he shall be

a man of ability, worthy of the trust. The Hon. Dr. Tupper and Mr. Hibbard are before us, whom shall we select? Dr. Tupper has been a conspicuous public man for the last twenty years, filled the highest offices in his native province, led his Government with marked ability, and occupied the elevated position of Minister of the Crown in the Government of the Dominion, and his bitter political opposition does not question his ability.

Some of our most important public works were projected and carried to completion by his energy, and the best laws on our Statute Book are the offspring of his statesmanlike mind.

Mr. Hibbard, we are free to admit, is a fair business man, an open a cool wit, probably, when the enterprise of a Hurkman shows him how on the adjoining shore, and he has the Local Government to assist him; can carry a good job in a country concert; is a fair judge of gendarmes; and a "new fellow" among a company of seafaring skippers. Are such the qualifications necessary for Cumberland's representative? Doubtful. If a Free School Bill were required to be drafted and carried through Parliament, how would he get along with such a job? How would he appear in a conference of men devising a grand scheme for the union of hostile provinces into a harmonious Dominion--the germ of a future nation? Is he the man to conceive or to announce in Parliament a policy to meet the varying requirements of different provinces? If we want a representative of ability, one who will do credit to himself, the county, the province, and the Dominion, we must vote against the ambitious American, and vote for our able, well tried, trusty old member.

Is it to the interests of Cumberland, or N. S., to support the Hon. Dr. Tupper, who gained their majority in Ontario, and hostility to us that N. S. had unfairly received \$1,400,000 of Ontario's money. Their policy is to rule Canada through Ontario. The narrow policy which suits our province, even though it be the largest, is not the statesmanlike requisite for N. S., or the Dominion.

The loud-mouthed professions of McKenzie and Blake, while in Opposition, were only made to be broken when they got power. Blake said thirteen ministers were too many; yet we have too many. Mr. Huntington, they have already sixteen. If one or three extra ministers can be appointed, one hundred can. Appoint all their supporters Ministers of the Crown!!! What a brilliant idea! Worthily of a Blake. Some of the demagogues whom they bribed with office were not efficient, also why appoint three extra ones? McKenzie opposed the Pacific R.R., but if it must go, it must be Canadian. No sooner does he get possession than he announces that they will be the Northern Pacific to Pembina; thus giving a value to Northern Pacific Bonds which were valueless before. Is this the contract price they paid for McKenzie's treachery? Hon. Mr. Scott now says the Canadian Pacific will not be built north of Lake Superior for forty years. What does this mean? They blatantly boast of their spoliations purely while they are selling Canada's interests--her Pacific Railroad--to the Americans, and bring forward a born American to run Dr. Tupper out, so as to be the better able to carry out that American policy. Thoughtful men think of the great risk to the interests of our country if we were to lose Dr. Tupper's great abilities in parliament. Vote for him who has done so much for the county and country. He happily holds a place in the affections of his countrymen out of which no living man can displace him.

Man of Cumberland, rally to the polls next Thursday and vote for Dr. Tupper. Roll up his majority to a thousand, strengthen his hands to fight his country's battles in parliament. Just such as he are wanted now at Ottawa.--What a vote against the father of our noble Free School Law--the glory of our statute book--and vote for Hibbard? Who will be guilty of such folly? Not I. AN ELECTOR.

For the Amherst Gazette.

Gentlemen Electors of the County of Cumberland put the question straight home to yourselves. Should we not again return Dr. Tupper as our Representative in the Commons? Have we any sound reason for not doing so? Can we send a better man? To enumerate every reason why he should once more be our choice, would exceed altogether the limits of the present article. The acts of a statesman of his for a period of nearly twenty years has guided the destinies of his country cannot be surveyed in a few columns of a newspaper. An impartial verdict of his conduct up to the present time cannot be rendered while the strife of contending parties is still raging. Dr. Tupper stands out prominently as one of the ablest, most talented men in the Dominion. His past career justifies the truth of this





Wit and Humor.

A newly appointed naval officer, while on duty at Sandy Hook in a gale, was seized with seasickness of such violence as to cause him immediately to throw up his commission.

Business Cards.

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