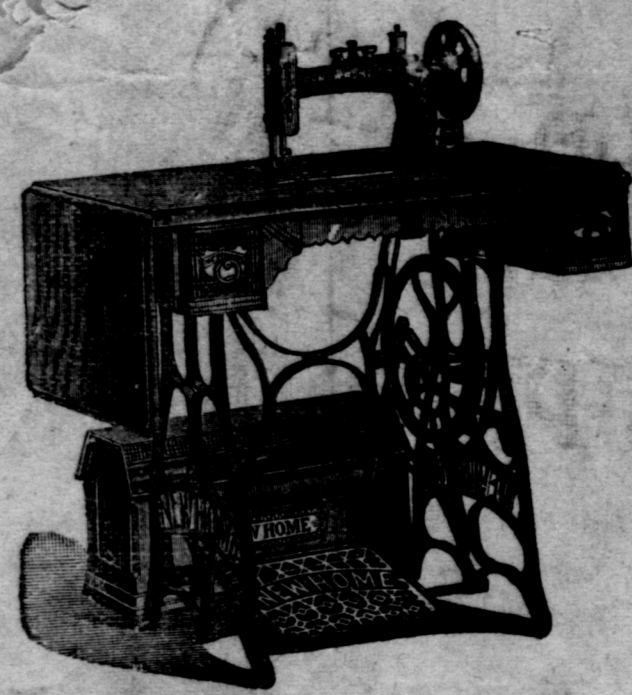


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Our first direct importation of 640 packages of Tea from China, has been partially distributed, and our customers inform us gives splendid satisfaction. Although markets are much stronger, we offer these goods at old price. We will be pleased to furnish samples and prices on application.

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297 Main St., Moncton, N. B.

Dealer in Sewing Machines, Organs and Pianos, etc. Sole agent for the New Home Sewing Machine. On account of not having any traveler on the road, I can sell lower and the public will receive the benefit. Washers and Wringers constantly on hand. Wringers repaired and new rollers supplied. Sewing Machine needles and needles sent by mail on receipt of order.

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**MASTERS & SNOW,**  
Representing the best English, Canadian and American Insurance Companies.  
Fire, Life Accident and Plate Glass.

## THE ALBERT STAR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26.

### A Christmas Hymn.

I.  
Sweet as she sat in the twilight dim  
Echoed the strains of her Christmas hymn,  
Swelling soft through the cozy gloom,  
And the wretched grace of the fire-lit room,  
Swelling and falling; and still it rang  
To the tune of the song that the angels sang.

II.  
"Now, O Lord, for Thy tender grace,  
For the dearthless love in Thy pitying face,  
For the young Thou hast borne that we might not bear,  
For the blessed sense of Thy constant care—  
For Thy dear sake be our sins forgot,  
Change our hearts, Thou who changeest not!"

III.  
"Help us, Lord, in the dark and cold,  
To feed Thy lambs. From the sheltering fold  
Some have wandered and lost their way,  
Some have found that the wolves betray,  
Some do shelter have never known—  
And yet, and yet they are all Thine own!"

IV.  
"Now, in the glow of the Christmas tide,  
For the sake of that tree on which Thou hast died,  
May there be never a Christmas tree  
But blessed with the love we would learn  
From Thee,  
For the poor, and the weak, and the lost—for them.  
As for us, rose the Star over Bethlehem."

### His 300 Anxious Wives.

There is a certain village in the Midlands, says London Truth, where the illness of the Ameer of Afghanistan has been followed with painful anxiety. The reason is to be found in the following curious, but, I believe, perfectly authentic story. Some years ago an enterprising young tailor left the village in question, and went abroad to seek his fortune. He eventually found his way to Cabul. Here great luck awaited him. He obtained the patronage of royalty, and became the people of Afghanistan. He had left a sweetheart behind in England, and as soon as he found himself on the road to fortune, he sent for the damsel to join him. She came, but here fortune deserted the tailor. His intended bride in her turn obtained the patronage of royalty, with the result that she eventually became one of the 300 hundred wives of Abdurrahman.

This, however, is only the first act of the tragedy. It is understood that, by the laws of Afghanistan, when the Ameer dies, the whole of his 300 wives must be shot. The laws of the Afghans are as immutable as those of their ancient neighbors, the Medes and Persians, and the whole of the little Midland village, where the Ameer's English wife was born, and where her parents are still living, has been during the past week or two in a high state of excitement over the possible fate of the young lady. Fortunately, the Ameer seems better now, and it is to be hoped, if only for the sake of his wives, whatever their nationality, that the improvement may continue. In the meantime cannot diplomacy do anything for the young woman? At this time of life, and with a gouty habit to boot, I should have thought Abdurrahman might have been inclined to get along with 299 of them. If, however, he must have a round number in the family circle, perhaps an exchange might be negotiated.

### Star Beams.

A sanitary authority insists catarrh and cold are caused, not by cold outdoor air, but by warm impure indoor air.

One thing about people who wear religion as a cloak, they are pretty sure to be warm in the next world too. It is said that not less than 13,000,000 human beings have perished in earthquakes since the beginning of the Christian era.

Mistress—Goodness, Bridget, to whom are you writing in those immense letters? Bridget—"To me sister mine; she's dead an' dumb."

A comrade of Edwin Libby Post, G. A. R., of Rockland, Me., has made within his life 100,000 toothpicks within the last three years, and sold them for the benefit of the poor.

A statistician of Moscow has estimated, from a study of the death returns of the Empire, that at least 10 per cent. of the inhabitants of that portion of the world die of preventable infectious diseases.

### Toadstools Lift a Paving Stone.

In London a paving stone was noticed to have raised above the others by its side, and workmen were sent to replace it on a level with the rest of the pavement. Before they reached their numerous toadstools appeared between it and its fellows, and when it was taken up it was found that the growth of these fungi, soft and spongy though they are, had lifted the stone, which was four feet across one way and two feet across the other way, and weighed 212 pounds. This is even more wonderful than the lifting of a rock by the roots of an oak or other tree growing in the crevice of the rock.

### ANY ONE WISHING

To Purchase  
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In general will do well to call on

**ERNEST MOLLINS,**

Local Agent for

**VANMETER, BUTCHER & CO.,**

## We Sell Over 100 HALF CHESTS OF Union Blend Tea

Every Week.

**Geo. S. DeForest & Son,**  
ST. JOHN, N. B.

### The Japanese Home

If a man of taste should enter a Japanese parlor he would not fail to be surprised at the display of marvelous and exquisite taste. Yet I have often heard the saying of foreigners that the Japanese house has no furniture, and is absolutely cheerless and empty. This is quite wrong. I must say that they have no taste of Japanese art; for the men of taste are agreed in saying that the art of decoration in Japan is excellent. If anyone has some taste in this art he will perceive that the hanging picture on the toko wall, elaborate arrangement of flowers, pictures on the framed partitions, and all decoration, however trifling, reveal infinite taste. The tastes of the Western people differ so much from ours that the decoration in their chambers seems almost childish to the Japanese eyes. The gorgeous display of colors in their rooms would please our children to look at. Drawing rooms piled up from corner to corner with toys, shells, stones, dishes, spoons, and different novel things always remind us of our curio shops. A bunch of flowers is stuck in a vase without form and without order. The pictures in the rooms hang perpetually, though the face of nature and feeling of man change from time to time. All these sights which we are accustomed to see in the European house excite in us nothing but wonder. Yet this is the taste of the Western people. We have no right to criticize it.

In Japan the family never gathers around one table as the European or other Asiatic peoples do, but each person has his or her own separate small table, a foot square and a foot high, and always highly decorated. When they take their meals they kneel upon the mat, each taking his table before him. The little lacquered table, generally contains a small porcelain bowl, heaped up with deliciously cooked rice, and several lacquered wooden bowls containing soup or meat, and numbers of little porcelain plates with fish, radishes and the like. The way of cooking, of course, is entirely different from the European. Two pretty chopsticks, made of lacquered bamboo or wood, silver or ivory, are used, instead of knife, fork, and spoon, and all people use them with great skill. All foods are prepared in the kitchen, so as to avoid any trouble to use knife and fork. Soup is to be drunk from the bowl by carrying it to the mouth by hand, in the same way as people drink tea or coffee. Table etiquette has elaborate rules, which high-bred ladies and gentlemen must follow. A maid servant always waits, kneeling at a short distance before a clean pan of boiled rice, with lacquered tray, on which she receives and delivers the bowls for replenishing them. Fragrant green tea is always used at the end of the meal, but sugar and cream never.

### A Tangible Instrumentality.

The spectacle of a lassie from Boston had taken a country school in the Southwest, and about two or three weeks after had begun teaching one of the trustees visited the school. "Well, how are you getting along?" he asked. "Very nicely now, thank you," she replied, "but it was very hard at first." "In that case?" "Oh, yes, you see in the beginning I tried moral suasion as a coercive measure, but failing in that I resorted to a tangible instrumentality." "A what?" gasped the simple-minded trustee. "A tangible instrumentality," she repeated sweetly, "a good, stout hickory switch, don't you know?"

### Relief in Six Hours.

Distressing Kidney and Bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the "GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE." This new remedy is a great surprise and delight on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidneys, back and every part of the urinary passages in male or female. It relieves retention of water and pain in passing it almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is your remedy. Sold by J. A. Beatty, Druggist.

### A Valuable Wardrobe.

A family in old Pittsburg had an old wardrobe that had stood in the house for 50 years. It became an eyesore to them and they decided to remove it. As they were doing so the bottom dropped out and popped \$75,000 in bank notes and government bonds.

### How to Tell Them.

Beware of the man who smiles when he's angry; he is likely to be dangerous. And beware of the man who looks glad when he's not; he's probably a humbug.

### Cat Electricity.

The London "Lancet" says, apropos of the recent cat show:—"The electrical effect produced by rubbing a cat's back is, of course, well known; it is also well known that this is frictional electricity, or, perhaps more correctly, the electricity of contact—that it is a surface effect produced by the rubbing, that it does not point to pre-existing electricity stored in the body of the animal and that the person who, having concluded a message, sinks into a chair declaring that his exhaustion is consequent on the loss of the living galvanism which he has imparted to the patient is a charlatan. "It is to be remembered that friction between any dissimilar substances always produces electricity, and in illustration of this the electrical effect sometimes produced in a dry atmosphere when the hair is combed on the body quickly divested of a flannel jersey may be illustrated, or the classic experiment of rubbing a stick of sealing wax on a rabbit's fur may be called to mind. Those who are accustomed to rely on the curative effect of stroking a cat's back may find consolation in the last-named experiment, inasmuch as it teaches them that when their 'feline favorite' is no more healthy and strength may still be secured by gentle friction on the skin. "Apart, however, from questions of electro-physiology it is instructive to learn that the presence of white in the colour of a cat, unless the animal be whole-coloured, is a sign of weakness."

### The Dear Old Soul.

The old lady who entered a train at a country station had an anxious face and soon confided to her neighbor the fact that she had but once before been on a railroad train. The lines in her forehead appeared to deepen as the hours went on, and every time the train stopped she inquired: "Is this New York?" "Sposin' this train would be late," she said; "mebbe Lyddy would think I won't comin'." "Did you tell her what train you would take?" "Oh, yes; I made sure to tell her to meet me at the New York afternoon train. They isn't more'n one train, is they?" She was calm for a while after the neighbor had assured her she would try to help her find Lyddy, but presently she remarked: "How'll I let 'em know I want to git off at New York?" Just then the conductor passed and she seized him by the coat sleeve, exclaiming: "Look here, Mister, I've got to land in New York. Won't you please stop the train for me when we git there?" "All right, ma'am," said the man soberly. "You'll not forget?" "Trust me for that, I'll remember, sure." "Thank you kindly, sir," she answered gratefully. "I'm much obliged." "And the man did not smile till he had left her."

### As It Struck Him.

A long, loose-jointed pilgrim, in a faded brown hat and venerable overcoat, strayed into one of the parks the other day, where a hotly contested game of football was in progress. He watched the players for some time in silence, and at last asked a bystander: "What d'ye reckon that thing they're fightin' over is with?" "About \$2.50, perhaps," replied the man to whom he had spoken. "They're a pack of durned fools!" exclaimed the pilgrim, stalking away in disgust.

A teacher of a Virginia district school recently asked one of her little colored pupils to go to the blackboard and write a sentence thereon containing the word "delight." George Washington Jackson went promptly to the front of the room and wrote, in a large, scrawling hand, these words: "De wind blowed so hard dat it put out de light."

### A Plant That Causes Blindness.

A number of cases of sudden loss of sight have recently been reported from Australia which it is believed have been brought about after persons had eaten of a peculiar berry known as "native figueta."

### An Unpardonable Break.

No man has any idea of the force and power of speech possessed by even the mildest-tempered woman in the world until accidentally he calls his second wife by his first wife's name.

### SHE WAS JUST HIS STYLE.

Exasperating Trick Played by the Jolly Man in the Smoker.

We were rattling along between Baltimore and Washington at a 60-miles-an-hour gait, with a sprinkling of ladies and congressmen and political heelers and sporting gentlemen and other odds and ends of everyday life through the parlor car from New York.

In the smoking compartment I had been indulging in my last cigar and listening to the usual "tales of a traveler," the principal story teller being a robust, red-faced gentleman of middle age, with merry blue eyes and a tendency to wink.

He entertained us immensely—modestly at first, then in the last 40 miles fairly monopolizing the conversation. The smoking room was packed with amused listeners and the doorway blocked by those who couldn't sit down. Meanwhile the air was so full of smoke it could have been cut into sections with a knife.

"Yes," said the story teller, musingly, when the laugh had gone round over his last yarn, "they have some all-fired pretty women in Washington. Now, I saw one sitting back in our car there—a little woman with big brown eyes—all alone—probably on her way to Washington with a claim or something—notice her?"

Three of us said we had and the two men at the door sauntered back to verify the description.

For myself, I remembered the bright eyes, modest dress and demure expression of the little woman who had been sitting alone all the way almost opposite my chair.

She had appeared to be immersed in an interesting story, when she was not nodding or looking at the dancing lights without as the train rushed by.

"Well, gentlemen," continued the merryman, "that is just the sort of woman to suit me—peachy cheeks, brown eyes, red lips and nice teeth. I must make her smile if only to give her a chance to show those teeth—I must, indeed!"

He arose from his place and flicked the cigar ashes from his clothes in a businesslike way, while we roared with laughter.

To our astonishment he immediately passed out into the narrow hall and straight back to the other end of the car, where the lady sat with her back to us.

A murmur of disapproval went round, but it was half expected he "could not persevere in his impertinent intention. I hastily slipped into my seat."

"O, I beg your pardon," said he to the lady, somewhat abruptly. "You're rather a pretty woman to be travelling alone—excuse me for speaking to you in this way, but I would really like to make your acquaintance! Going to Washington, I presume? So am I!"

The lady looked up sharply at first, then blushed a rosy hue—a blush, however, quickly chased away by a charming smile. The teeth were perfect, and the merry gentleman turned around as if to call to us to witness.

With others, I felt hot at the impudence of the man, and one of the party rushed out to call the conductor. Still, as the lady smiled and exhibited great presence of mind, there didn't seem to be any immediate occasion for interference.

"What's your name?" inquired the merry gentleman—"maybe I can be of assistance to you. There's my card. Yours truly—always ready to help lovely women in distress. The—is a good hotel. Ah! going there? So am I!"

Up to this time the lady hadn't said a word, simply alternating between blushes and smiles, while everybody else in the car looked daggers and pistols.

But she got an opening here, and, catching hold of the merry gentleman's coat, said, with a good-natured petulance: "Now, do stop, John! If you don't stop this fooling I'll never travel with you again! Sit down! You've left me here all alone from the moment we set foot on the car, and now you're making game of me. What do you suppose?"

She looked around laughingly, but we men were all sneaking off to the smoker, while the remaining women were in convulsions of mirth.

### Ignorance That Is Not Bliss.

White Citizen—"Well Jackson, what are you doing for a living now?" Colored Citizen—"Ain't doin' nothin'; de ole woman takes in washin'." "Ain't you ashamed of yourself to allow your wife to support you by washin'?" "Well, boss, my ole woman am mighty ignorant an' don't know how to do nuffin else."

### Catarrh Relieved in 10 to 30 Minutes.

One short puff of the breath through the Blower, supplied with each bottle of Dana's Catarrhal Powder, diffuses this Powder over the surface of the nasal passages. Painless and delightful to use, it relieves instantly, and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, Colds, Headache, Sore Throat, Tonsillitis and Deafness. 60 cents at J. A. Beatty's.

### The Czar's Military Titles.

The late Czar of Russia was chief of 29 Russian regiments and independent battalions, chief of two German and two Austrian regiments, and an officer in a suite of the German navy.

## NEW FURNITURE STORE.

A full line of Bedroom, Parlor and Dining Room Furniture; Folding Beds, Mantle Beds, Iron Beds; Fancy Chairs and Rockers.

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## The Cold Winter

Has come again, and we are prepared to furnish the public with anything in the stove line, from a bedroom stove to a furnace. We also carry a large stock of stove fittings, including coal hods, stove boards, stove pipe and elbows, and a general line of hardware and tinware at

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The Subscriber wishes to exchange a fine selection of Yarmouth & Moncton Tweeds, Flannels Yarns for wool.

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## Mrs. A. E. Keith's

store is announced. A variety of Felt Walking Hats, Sailor Hats, Turbans, and a variety of other Shapes, Feathers, Jet Ornaments, etc. will be sold at prices to suit the times.

## A. B. LAUDER & CO.

Manufacturers of Carriages, uggies, Sleighs, Pungs, Carts, etc.

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## CARRIAGE

This season is here and as we must make room for Sleighs now, factured, cash customers for TEN DAYS will find it to their advantage to call on us. ROAD CARTS, good supply of all kinds on hand. AGE and FEED CUTTERS, HAND POWER and LEVER PLOWS, PUNCH, JUDY, HERO, VILAS, and a full line of repair all kinds. FANNING MILLS made by Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd.

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## 55cts. Trimmed Felt

## Walking Hats 55cts.

Our Trimmed Felt Walking or Tourist Hats for Ladies at 55 cents each, has created a great excitement. Sent by mail to any address on receipt of price 55 cents. Plain Quills all colors, 2 cents each; Jetted Quills, 5 cents each.

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