

THE DISPATCH.

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THE MUSINGS OF THE WICKED IMP.

FASTING AS A RELIGIOUS DUTY, OR A PHYSICAL GOOD.

People who Think They are Atlases and Carry the World on their Shoulders.—And yet They are Not Needed.—A Public Friction which Affords Much Pleasure.



Medical science promises to accomplish what religious sentiment failed to do. As long as it is only our souls that will suffer from indulgence, we are apt to continue to indulge, but when we are told that the health of the body is likely to be thereby impaired, the question assumes an entirely different aspect. Thomas Carlyle was once told by a doctor to give up smoking. He did so for awhile, and then resumed the old practice. Some one asked him why he smoked against the doctor's advice. "Well," he replied, "I was miserable, and I gave up smoking. I was still miserable so I am smoking again." Fasting was long regarded as a religious exercise, meritorious as an act of self-denial. It has now come to be seen that fasting, on certain occasions, is a most excellent exercise from a purely physical standpoint. This prevalent indigestion with which about every third person one meets is afflicted, is undoubtedly due to indiscriminate eating and drinking, and foul cookery. A bread and water diet for a few days would set a good many of them right again. Now I suppose the doctors around town will be after me for giving free advice, so I had better change the subject.

A mythical character of ancient times named Atlas, was credited with having to bear the world on his shoulders. With this tremendous load was his frail body hampered. Atlas, every school boy knows, never existed in real life, any more than Hercules or any of the renowned characters in heathen mythology. But the myth about Atlas hides an ironic meaning. Are we not meeting modern Atlases every day. In each community whether it be large or small, civilized or semi-civilized, there is one Atlas, anyway, and generally a good many more than one, who fancies that he must carry the earth on his shoulders. People continually over estimate their usefulness, thinking that the earth would experience a tremendous shock if anything happened to them. And yet, the very strongest of us are but as officers in a great army—the most of us as privates. When we are hit and fall and drop out of the ranks, or even from the head another quickly steps in and takes our place. When Marlborough died the people of England thought his like would never be seen, and yet when the hour of need arrived a Wellington rose up. When Washington passed away the American republic thought its loss inestimable, but when civil war rent the country from end to end, a Grant appeared on the scene. Political life affords instance after instance of the same kind. Individuals are but atoms. They pass away—for a day they are remembered—and the world goes on just as if they had never existed.

"Why do the heathen rage?" inquired the preacher as he reached the climax of his missionary discourse. "I know," growled the deacon who could strike no attitude sufficiently comfortable for his usual morning nap. "If the shirts my wife made and sent to them are as uncomfortable as these she made for me, no wonder they rage." And the Imp who was present, nodded, not in sleep but in sympathy, and hereby sends his skinkfelt sympathy—if it be not heartfelt—to the deacon and all his similarly afflicted brethren. I, for once, agree with Shakespeare who makes Hamlet to say in his soliloquy on death, with touching pathos:—

"Of all the ills to which flesh is heir,
The greatest I assert,
Is to have a fifteen collar
On a sixteen shirt."

I propose to devote the winter to the profession of dedicating engine houses. We dedicated No. 2 on Monday night. We should put a few necessary repairs on No. 1 and dedicate that; then if necessary, we should build a large number of new houses and spend the winter months in a series of dedicatory services. We couldn't do better than make all the services on the model of

the one we attended on Monday, and have the same crowd on each occasion.

THE IMP.

Caught Between the Sleepers.

On Saturday afternoon Ellis Hall, a resident of Great Falls, Montana, staying at the Wilbur House hired a horse and carriage from Gallagher Bros., intending to take a business trip through Jacksonville. He represents a concern which does business in enlarging photos. He was getting in the carriage near Upper Woodstock, and the horse started to run before he got the reins. Once in the carriage he could neither get the reins, nor get out of the vehicle. The horse tore away, at a furious rate, towards the corner. Near Albert Brewer's she jumped a six foot fence, as if after the sweepstakes in a hurdle race, leaving the carriage and its occupant on the other side. Mr. Hall was badly shaken up, and suffered a sprained ankle, but he is congratulating himself that he got off with any whole bones left in his body. The now thoroughly excited animal continued its reckless and furious pace, down the hill in the direction of the railway bridge, nor did that appear to be a serious hindrance. The horse ran along two spans not getting caught in the sleepers, until the third span was reached. There it was stuck solid. Fortunately Frank Currie and his crew of men, who have been working on the bridge, had not quit work, and they set to work to disentangle the entrapped animal. It was necessary to cut out three or four sleepers, and the crew had only fifteen minutes to do it before the train would come along. This they managed to do, however. The horse although somewhat cut, was not seriously hurt. It was a fortunate escape all around. Probably the same horse will clear of railway bridges in the future.

Died Suddenly.

The community was shocked on Sunday at hearing that Mrs. Daniel Sullivan had suddenly passed away in the early hours of the morning. The deceased lived with her husband and two daughters in a house on Park street into which the family had moved only a week or so ago. For some six years past Mrs. Sullivan has been a victim of heart disease. It was her custom to often get up during the night and walk around the house, to get relief from the oppressive sensation which so often visited her. Shortly after one o'clock on Sunday morning she got up and went down stairs. In a few moments her husband and daughters heard her fall, and going to her help, found she was lying at the foot of the stairs, unconscious. They, tenderly, removed her to her bed, and Mr. Sullivan went for Dr. Hand, but death had taken place when medical assistance came on the scene. Mr. Sullivan told THE DISPATCH that his wife seemed in better spirits when she went to bed than at any time for six years previously. The deceased and her husband came from England some twenty years ago. Besides the sorrowing husband, there are three daughters, two working in Saunter's tailor shop, and one attending the Normal school at Fredericton, and a son who has been in the West for several years. The funeral took place yesterday morning at 9 o'clock to St. Gertrude's church and then to the cemetery.

Maritime Board of Trade.

Mr. Ira Cornwall secretary of the St. John Board of Trade, and also of the lately organized Maritime Board, has sent a communication to the secretary of the Woodstock Board, containing copies of the constitution. Under the provisions of the constitution, the Maritime Board shall be composed of delegates from the various boards in the provinces on the basis of ten per cent. of each board's membership. The officers shall be a president, two vice-presidents, each representing one of the maritime provinces, and a secretary-treasurer. There shall be a council composed of one member from each board, to be elected by the board immediately after the annual meeting of the Maritime Board. The annual meeting of the board shall be on the third Wednesday of August at such place as selected. All members of affiliated boards shall pay a per capita tax of ten cents to the secretary-treasurer of the Maritime Board. The question as to whether the Woodstock board shall affiliate with the Maritime Board, will come up for decision at the regular monthly meeting on the 11th of November.

Back to the Old Stand.

Britton Bros., boot and shoe dealers who were burned out in the recent fire on King St., and have occupied a stand next to G. W. Vanwart, are back again to their old stand in the Hale building just rebuilt. It will pay to call and examine their stock.

Orders for Book-binding taken at THE DISPATCH office.

THE TESTIMONY IS VERY CONFLICTING, AND THE POLICE MAGISTRATE ENTERS A CONVICTION.

A Scott Act Case which Excites Much Interest.—Detective Oxten of the Law and Order League Relates His Experiences.—An Alibi Set Up by the Defence.

For some weeks past a clean shaven rather sharp visaged man wearing spectacles with a somewhat slight body below them, probably between forty and fifty years of age, might have been noticed around town. He put up at the Exchange and thereby hangs a tale.

The sharp visaged, somewhat diminutive man with the specs is a detective, and he was after those who dispense spirits contrary to the provisions of the 2nd part of the Canada Temperance act. He has not been wonderfully successful, but he did certainly get badly into Jas. A. Dugan, being the cause of that gentleman's having some eight convictions of violations of the law entered against him. He also secured evidence against Oscar Dugan of Woodstock, and Chas. E. Stephenson of Florenceville.

The trial of the case began on Friday last before the police magistrate. There was no defence in Jas. Dugan's cases, and with dreary monotony the witness told how in the Exchange hotel, in the town of Woodstock, County of Carleton, Province of New Brunswick, at 11 or some other o'clock p. m., "standard time," he bought intoxicating liquor, and paid Mr. Dugan ten cents a drink. On one occasion he took two other parties in and they had three drinks for which he paid 25 cents.

"There was a discount there," said Mr. Connell.

"Yes! Wholesale price," remarked the detective.

When the case against Oscar A. Dugan came up, it was plain that things were not going to go so smoothly for Mr. Wm. H. Oxten, the Boston detective, for Oscar was going to put up a defence, and when the case was called, J. R. Murphy promptly responded, "I appear for the defendant."

A. B. Connell began the usual catechism to the witness, such as "what is your name," "where do you come from," etc., etc. When the preliminaries were over the witness swore that he knew the defendant, that on Sunday evening, the 6th October, at 10.45 p. m., he treated two other thirsty souls to drinks, that Oscar served the drinks, and that the witness paid Oscar 25 cents. The other parties were two barbers, one named Ketch and the other Joe Blizzard.

The witness then proceeded to relate the circumstances leading up to the imbibing point. He had been to a temperance lecture in Graham's hall, and when he got to the Exchange these two men were there. One remarked, "That is enough to make a fellow dry," to which witness made a remark, "That's me," indicating that he held a similar opinion as to the excessive drought which was likely to arise after attending the lecture. Then the question was asked if he ever took anything, to which he made the original response, "I don't mind if I do." After that they did. First one of the barbers treated, and then Mr. Oxten put them up, taking whiskey, while the others took gin.

Mr. Murphy asked the witness what was his occupation.

I am employed by the Massachusetts Law and Order League to get information against illegal liquor dealers.

How long have you been so employed?

About four years.

Did they employ you to come down here?

Yes, sir. I was ordered to come here by Mr. Holly, the head man of the league.

What wages do you get?

I am on regular salary.

How much is the amount?

That is a private arrangement.

Mr. Connell objected to this question being answered, and the court sustained the objection, as it had nothing to do with his work here.

How much money did Holly pay you before you started, in the way of expenses?

He advanced me \$50 to pay my expenses.

The witness then said he got here on Friday the 4th of October, and put up at the Exchange. He had the names of the Victoria, the Queen and the Wilbur Houses in his note book.

Were you met at the station by any temperance workers?

Not that I know of. They might have been there.

Did you see Mr. Colpitts on the 5th of October?

No sir.

Did you see Oscar Dugan on Sunday?

I think I saw him after supper.

How do you come to fix the exact time when you say you got the drink, at 10.45, p. m.

I made a memorandum.

What do you mean by standard time?

I cannot explain if you do not know the English language.

The witness then said he went by standard time—as was used on the railroad. He could not say whether it was the same as used on the town clock or not.

Since you were here did you have any conversation with Mr. Colpitts?

I reported progress to him.

Did you ask him for any money?

I asked him for \$25.

And he gave it to you?

Yes.

Did he give you any more?

Yes, he gave me \$5 more.

At one time of the examination the witness was asked whether he knew the difference between Irish and Scotch whiskey. He said he wasn't quite sure that he did, but he knew the difference between whiskey and gin. He then drew out his note book and showed a sketch of the label on the bottle from which he had his drink. Among other things written on the label were the words "wholesome and reliable." His friends drank gin out of a "flat face," he thought they called the bottle.

Joseph Lamb was called for the defence, and he swore that he and Oscar Dugan went down the country on a shooting expedition early on Sunday morning the 6th, and that they did not return until after 11 o'clock, and that the Exchange hotel was shut up, the lights out and nobody there when they got home.

Oscar Dugan, the defendant, said that the statement made by Oxten that he got liquor from him on the 6th Oct. was a lie. He swore that he and Lamb went shooting that day, and when they got back the lights were all out, and the hotel locked, and that he had to get in by a window.

Oscar Dugan admitted the offence charged on the 8th October, and the case of the 6th was postponed until Saturday for further evidence for the defence.

On Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock the case against Oscar Dugan was continued. There was not any strikingly amusing incidents.

W. H. Oxten being recalled said that he heard some laughing and talking going on in the sample room after he went to bed. The next morning he saw Oscar Dugan as he came down stairs and the latter said, "The boys came back after you left. I had also," he continued, "a conversation with Mr. Blizzard that day, the latter remarking, you came back and stayed quite awhile after you left."

Mr. Connell—How does it come that you spent all your energies against Oscar Dugan and his father?

Witness—I tried other places, the Queens hotel, where they refused to give me anything, the drug stores and Jas. A. Doherty's but I could not get anything to drink.

Willis Ketch said that on the evening of the first of October he was at the F. C. B. church. After that he went to the temperance meeting, and then to the Exchange hotel where he stayed until between ten and eleven o'clock. He did not see Oscar Dugan there. Blizzard he saw there and Oxten, but they did not have anything to drink.

Mr. Connell—Will you swear you did not ask Mr. Oxten in to have something?

Yes, sir.

Witness said on another occasion, not long after the 6th he did have a drink at the Exchange with Oxten.

Joseph Blizzard's evidence was to about the same effect.

John W. Pritchard gave evidence that he did not see Oscar Dugan around the Exchange on the Sunday in question.

Mr. Murphy in addressing the court, laid stress on the preponderance of evidence in favor of the defence against the evidence of a man hired to inform on illegal liquor sellers. He claimed that the character of the defendant and his witnesses was not such as would lead his honor to discredit them. If Oscar Dugan was determined to clear himself on false testimony, he submitted that he would not have pled guilty to the offence on the 8th.

Mr. Connell claimed that as far as the evidence of the witnesses for the defence went in the vital points it was false, and would ask his honor so to rule from knowledge of the parties, and the testimony they gave. The defendant set up an alibi, one of the strongest of defences, and when properly stated, one of the hardest to controvert. He believed that Joe Lamb and Oscar Dugan were down the country the day in question, but that they returned before 10.45 p. m. They said they were on Orr's. Why then did they not bring Orr to prove the time they left his house. Their failure to do that showed the weakness of their cause. He claimed that as far as Oxten being a paid servant was concerned, it was all the more likely that he would tell the truth, as his position was dependant upon the ability and skill with which he worked up his case.

His honor reserved judgment.

On Monday morning the police magistrate delivered judgment on the case. He reviewed the evidence thoroughly, and said he must finally come to the conclusion that Oxten, a skilled detective, in the employ of the Law and Order League of Massachusetts did not commit perjury. It was therefore his duty to make a conviction. Besides the eight convictions against James A. Dugan, three stand against Oscar Dugan, and two against C. E. Stephenson of Florenceville.

SUES THE C. P. R. FOR HEAVY DAMAGES.

A CASE WHICH INTERESTS WOODSTOCK PEOPLE.

Smith Mersereau and the C. P. R.—Claims \$10,000 Damages.—Tracy's Father Asks for \$5,000.—To be Tried in Sunbury in May Next.

Woodstock people will remember the accident at Nickerson's siding going on two years ago, when a man named Tracey was killed, and Smith Mersereau badly crushed. They will also remember that Mersereau laid at the Exchange hotel, hovering between life and death for many months. Under the treatment of Dr. Hand, Mersereau recovered sufficiently to be removed to his home at Fredericton Junction. It will also be remembered that an inquest was held in this town as to the cause of the accident, and that the coroner's jury returned a verdict that nobody was to blame in the matter. However the conductor of one of the trains which collided, THE DISPATCH understands, was laid off shortly after the accident. It has been rumored that action was to be taken by Mersereau to recover damages from the C. P. R. and the following extract from the Fredericton Herald shows that this has been done, and that Tracey's father also seeks compensation for his son's death. This is the extract: Mention was made in the Herald the other day, that two suits for damages against the C. P. R. which were to have been tried in the Sunbury circuit court last week were postponed in the absence of important witnesses. These are the cases of Smith Mersereau and Geo. E. Tracey, who are suing the company for \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Mersereau was very badly injured in the accident at Nickerson's siding above Woodstock, about one year ago, and Tracey's son was killed in the same collision and the plaintiffs now seek to recover damages from the company. Messrs. Gregory & Gregory, of this city, are acting for the plaintiff in both suits and Messrs. Weldon & McLean appear for the defence. It is expected the trials will come off at the Sunbury circuit court in May next.

Presentation.

When the boys found out he was intent on getting married, it goes without saying they gave him a send off. It's George Balmain I'm talking about. The Woodstock Cycling Club, of which he is president, first of all arraigned him and presented him with the following address and a grip sack:

To George E. Balmain, Esq., President of the Woodstock Cycling Club:

The members of the Woodstock Cycling Club having learned with deep and dark regret that you their President have resolved on committing high treason to the Ancient Order of Bibulous Bachelors, have decided that it is best in your own interest and that of the club, to arraign you before this tribunal that justice may be meted out to you. Inasmuch as this is your first offence it becomes us to be lenient. Your conduct in the past has been exemplary, and it is readily owned on all hands that you have been a most attentive and popular president. In consideration of this we have decided to impose upon you as a penalty, what under other circumstances you might reasonably take to be a mark of our regard. You are condemned to bear, carry, transport and otherwise lug, through and during the continuance of your approaching absence from Woodstock, this Grip-sack. In case the contents of this bag should at any time be such as would make public inspection undesirable, we have taken the precaution to provide you with a key. Having imposed this penalty upon you, we have exhausted our animosity, and we sincerely desire that in your journey along life's highway on a bicycle built for two, you may have more hills to coast than to climb and always a wind at your back.

The ladies of the club gave him a silver tag for the grip and wished him all sorts of happiness. On Wednesday evening a party of his friends met him at the Wilbur house where they presented him with a very fine easy chair. After a number of speeches and songs the party dispersed.

Mr. Balmain left on Thursday for St. Louis, Mo., where he will marry Miss Helen Hume, daughter of the late George Hume, of Fredericton.

Charged With Many Murders.

A few weeks ago the daily papers were full of the crimes charged against H. H. Holmes, who is said to have murdered something like a dozen people to secure the insurance on their lives. Coroners juries have found him guilty of murder in Philadelphia, Chicago and Toronto. On Monday his trial for the murder of Benj. F. Pitzel was commenced at Philadelphia. A dispatch says "the trial will probably pass into history as the most celebrated case known to the criminal annals of the western hemisphere."