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NOTICE.

Having purchased the good will Meat business of Forrester McLean we shall in the future keep

Beef, Pork, Mutton, Lamb and Veal, with Ham, Eggs and Sausages in their season.

Also, in addition to the above we propose keeping Pickled Pigs' Feet, Lambs' Tongues and Tripe, with sundry other articles. After getting our business fairly started and market thoroughly painted and cleansed we would respectfully solicit a fair share of the public patronage. Our aim will be to so treat our customers that there may be a degree of confidence between buyer and seller.

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ATHERTON BROS.

King Street, Woodstock.

A ROMANCE OF THE PEERAGE.

The Impecuniosity of an Earl Directs Attention to a Remarkable Story.

Few persons, even in England, are aware of the fact that the British statute book, like that of Bavaria, makes particular provision for the relief of indigent peers. Of all men in the world, it is Mr. Gladstone who secured the very quiet passage of this act through parliament during his last administration but one, and attention now has been called to its existence for the first time in a public way by an application addressed to the treasury through the Indian government for a pecuniary grant to the Earl of Milltown, residing in considerable poverty at Umballa, being too old and infirm to earn his living any longer, as he has done until now. The earl in question, to whose impoverished condition the leading newspaper of British India, The Pioneer, repeatedly has called attention, was known for many years as J. Leeson, and only established his claim to the Milltown peerage three years ago, after it had been in abeyance ever since the death without issue of the seventh earl, in 1891.

It seems that the fifth earl, who died in 1871, had been a wild young fellow in his youth, and became infatuated with a very pretty girl, the daughter of a farmer in a small way, who was one of his father's tenants. He would have married the girl openly but for the opposition of his family to what they considered a terrible mesalliance. So he and the girl crossed over the border into Scotland, where they became man and wife under the Scotch law. A boy was born of the union, and everything went on fairly well until a moment when the child was about 2 years old, when his father suddenly received the appointment of aid-de-camp to the Viceroy of Ireland. In those days there were considerable emoluments and allowances attached to this post, and as the young fellow was by no means flush with cash he accepted the appointment, proceeded to Dublin to report to the viceroy, proposing to return a few days afterward in order to bring his wife and boy quietly across the Irish sea. When he got home, however, after an absence of a couple of weeks, he found that both had disappeared, and all his efforts to trace them were in vain. He did not marry again, and at his death the earldom which he meanwhile had inherited from his father, passed to his younger brother Edward, and from him to Henry, a still younger brother, the seventh earl. After the latter's death the family solicitor set to work to search in every part of the world for the plebeian-born wife and son of the fifth earl and finally discovered the son in the person of a man named J. Leeson, who for a number of years acted as conductor on the East India Railway, making his home at Umballa.

It seems that when his mother and he were abducted by his father's relatives they were taken to Australia, where for a time an allowance was made to them on the condition that the mother should make no attempt to correspond with her husband, and that she should not assume his name. The woman, who was in reality Countess of Milltown, and who earned her living during the latter portion of her life as laundress, died when her son was about 19, and the lad, after trying his hand at all sorts of different trades, finally was sent as one of the stablemen in charge of a large consignment of Australian horses to India, where the greater portion of the cavalry is mounted on Australian horses. He liked the life there and finally got employment as conductor on a railroad.

Fortunately he had inherited from his mother a quantity of papers, and it was with the assistance of these, together with other evidence, that he was able to establish his claim to his father's earldom of Milltown and viscounty of Rushborough. The peerages are Irish, and do not carry with them a seat in the House of Lords. The earl is married to a native woman and has two daughters, Earle and Marghera Leeson, who are married to subaltern employes of the East India Railway.

ALMOST UNBEARABLE

"I suffered from kidney trouble so much that the pain in my back was almost unbearable and I felt tired and worn out all the time, my tongue was coated and until I took Doan's Kidney Pills I had been unable to do my housework for over a month. These pills have made a complete cure, all my kidney and bladder troubles have disappeared and I feel like a new woman." Mrs. Presley, Kingston, Ont.

THE STORY OF LADY MILLAIS.

Her Love For the Painter, and the Philosopher's Noble Resignation.

Lady Millais, who died last week, was the widow of Sir John Millais, former President of the Royal Academy, and her plaintively piquant—almost babyish—face is familiar to all who recall the countenance of the woman in her late husband's prize winning picture, "The Huguenot Lovers." Lady Millais was never prominent in either the social or artistic life of England, except for her association with two of England's most noteworthy men; but with her passing is taken away the central figure on the most remarkable romance of modern times—a romance that would have been celebrated, in a less practical age, along

with that of Petrarch and Laura, or of Dante and Beatrice, or that even of the good monk Abelard and Heloise.

About the middle of the century John Ruskin, already the foremost art critic of Great Britain, if not of the world, met Euphemia Chalmers Gray, the pretty daughter of a country curate. He was not a man to love a woman simply because she was a woman, but the beautiful face of Miss Gray appealed to his artistic sensibilities, and, in his way, he fell in love with her. Ruskin was wealthy; he had already written books that had been landed on every side, and had become known as the leading authority on art matters in all England. So it may well be believed that his offer of marriage to the unknown daughter of a provincial clergyman was a temptation not to be thrust aside. In due time Euphemia Gray became Mrs. John Ruskin, and they went to live in London, where Ruskin forthwith sunk himself in study, and left his young wife to entertain herself as best she might.

About this time the paintings of John Millais, a young man whose canvasses showed excellent promise, began to attract widespread attention, chiefly because of the favorable notice given them by Ruskin. Millais was taken up by society, and being a handsome fellow possessed of a charming personality, he soon became a pet in the most exclusive drawing-rooms of London. But he never allowed his social success to interfere with his work, and day by day he painted himself into greater fame—always with the help of John Ruskin's criticism, given to him privately and through the public press. So it came about that ere long John Millais was commissioned by his friend to paint a portrait of Mrs. Ruskin—and thereby began the romance.

"Jack" Millais was a normal, red-blooded young fellow, a man of the world, and a favorite of society, Mrs. Ruskin was a beautiful woman, also worldly, who, presumably, had never felt any genuine affection for the man she had married, and who, it is fair to assume, felt herself neglected ever since her marriage for books and pictures and architecture, and all the other things that had ever made up the substance of her husband's happiness. These two young people, of like tastes and temperaments, were thrown much together. The sittings took place at Ruskin's home, and day by day John Millais and his fair subject saw each other. As the weeks passed the sittings grew unduly prolonged. Probably without either of them realizing it the admiration each felt for the other at their first meeting ripened gradually into a love that could have but one ending.

And, meanwhile, John Ruskin, the dreamer, sat in his study, molding artistic metaphors, and building up a code to govern the art lovers of all lands. He knew nothing about the tragedy that was ripening in the next room; nothing of how his friend Millais was painting his heart into the canvas before him, inspired every minute by eyes that conveyed to the artist a love unspoken and unutterable. He recked nothing, either, in the midst of his books and his pictures, of the pathos of those two hearts, inextricably bound up in one another, yet torn with the conflict of love against friendship and wifely fidelity.

One day, hand in hand, humbly and honorably, there walked into Ruskin's library his friend and his wife. They knelt before him, and in a grave yet broken voice John Millais told of the love that had grown in his heart for the woman who knelt beside him; and then she told her story, while the husband listened, amazed but quiet. When they had finished the sad confession, the dreamer closed his book and bade the imploring couple arise. Then, in his nobleness, he gave them to each other, relinquishing all claim upon the woman who bore his name, and blessing them because they had been honest with him.

Steps were taken at once with Ruskin's aid, to remove every obstacle in the immediate marriage of his wife and Millais. Divorce is difficult of procurement in England, except for causes which must leave a taint on the name of one of the persons concerned; and, as there was no justification for scandal in this case, Ruskin and his wife were for a while put to a great stress to find some way to free them from their bonds. Even the Queen was appealed to, but, it is believed, she refused to interfere or even to suggest any way out of the dilemma, and so eventually it was decided that the best and earliest way, all things concerned, was for Mrs. Ruskin to live temporarily under the roof of Millais' house—as this, however pure as life she lived, was all that was necessary to be shown in order to procure the necessary relief from the courts. In due season the divorce was granted, and the next day—this was in 1855 John Millais led the woman of his choice to the altar—her former husband giving her away and standing by as the principal witness.

This strange ceremony ended, Millais took his wife home, and, seemingly inspired all the more by her presence, began to paint pictures which raised him to still greater prominence, and which were still praised, when praise was due, by John Ruskin. And, having lost the only woman he ever loved by this absurd freak of fate, poor Ruskin also

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ERHAPS he was a cynic, but some one has said that in this age there are no healthy women. The age has many women, strong and noble physically, as they are mentally and morally; but it is true nevertheless, that a large percentage of the women of the country suffer from nervousness and general debility. They drag out a weary existence, and each day is a day of pain and suffering. This was the case with Miss Annie Patterson, of Sackville, N. B. She suffered terribly from indigestion and nervousness. She was influenced by some one, somehow, to try South American Nerve. Of course, it was like hoping against hope—another patent medicine. But she had taken only one bottle when her system began to take on the health of earliest years, and after using three bottles she was completely cured. No wonder she is strong in her conviction that there is no remedy like South American Nerve.—20.

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sought his home, and, once more locking himself in his study, became a recluse so far as society went—venturing out only to make expensive journeys to Italy and other art Meccas, or to dissipate his fortune in prodigal gifts to artists and poor kinsmen, or in additions to his beloved museum at Sh-field—which next to his books, will be his most enduring monument.

Of the three actors in this nineteenth century romance Ruskin is alive. Millais lived to be knighted and to be made the President of England's greatest art institution, and, alas! to have his charge made against him that over all his latest canvasses was the trail of the serpent of commerce—an accusation which he tacitly admitted. He died in August of last year, and now Lady Millais has followed him.

Seven years ago John Ruskin became insane, it is said, from brooding over the loss of the one woman he had ever loved.

Yellow Skin and Eyes.

Biliousness causes yellow skin and eyes, tired, weary, sluggish feeling, etc. BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS cleanses the blood and regulates the liver, curing all its diseases; "From a child I suffered from biliousness and headache, and all the money I spent for medicine brought me no relief. Four bottles of B. B. B. cured me completely, however, and I gladly recommend it."

MRS. W. COLEMAN, Toronto, Ont.

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"Grandfather, what is a peacemaker?"
"Well, a peacemaker is a man who jumps in to prevent two other men from fighting and comes out with more bruises and black eyes than either of them."

Grace: I must refuse him, poor fellow; but I wish I could do something to lessen the pain of it." Maud: "Get someone to tell him you haven't so much money as he thinks you have."

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MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon, on 4th February, 1898, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week each way, between Woodstock, P. O. and Woodstock Road Station from the 1st April next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Woodstock, N. B., and at this office. N. R. COLTER, Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, St. John, Dec. 27th, 1897.

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If you want to get strength and purity you will find our stock of Drugs the best in the vicinity. Our Drugs are bought with the greatest care, and we take pains that none but Pure Drugs reach our shelves. McKeen's Quinine Iron and Wine and McKeen's Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla, a Skin and Blood Remedy, are confidently recommended to the public for spring disorders.

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