

THE DISPATCH.

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., NOV. 23, 1898.

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NO USE FOR "COWARDS"

But Forgot That He Wasn't Under The Star Spangled.

A Civil War Veteran Cuts up a Lively Shindy in Quiet Richmond.—Fire Water Brings Out the Fighting Quality.—He Admits Being Naughty And Apologizes.

John Shields is a respectable farmer of the parish of Richmond, pretty well on in years. He is post master at the office near the boundary line on the main road to Houlton. With him lives his wife, and his son and his wife and their little baby.

There is a man who lives in Houlton named John Thompson. He is no chicken, but is not so aged as Mr. Shields. Mr. Thompson has had a military career. He has fought and perhaps bled for his country, which is the United States of America. He has faced the enemy of his country often. His individual enemy appears to be strong drink, and this same enemy led him into serious trouble shortly ago.

On Friday afternoon Mr. Shields and Mr. Thompson both appeared before Police Magistrate Dibblee in the police court. As to Mr. Shields' face it was tied up with sundry bandages, showing that damage has been wrought thereon, and the evidence went to show that the said damage was done by John Thompson, the aforesaid patriot and soldier. Mr. Shields told his narrative somewhat as follows, to wit, It was on the 12th of November that a man came to his house. The man was the same Thompson. He asked for the woman of the house, the daughter-in-law of Mr. Shields. To his inquiry the lady placed bread and tea before him for refreshment, and he ate and drank apparently with relish. By and bye the wayfaring man directed his attention to Mr. Shields. He asked him how long he had been here, if he had ever been away, and moreover if he was "in the war" (forgetting that Mr. Shields was a British subject, and meaning not the recent Spanish-American war but the earlier civil war.) Mr. Shields said he had been here a long time, and that he had not been to the war. This angered Mr. Thompson and he passed the most uncomplimentary remarks about Mr. Shields in particular and every one in general who were such d—cowards as not to fight for their country. The longer he dwelt on the lack of loyalty and patriotism of those who would not fight, the angrier did he become, and the object of his anger was old man Shields, in whose breast, now, did fear arise. Finally, Mr. Thompson got up from his chair and made at the old man. The old man seized a stick and tried to ward off the blows but the blows came, and the man of war soon laid low the man of peace. The whiskey which Mr. Thompson had imbibed continued to cause his rage to increase, and he made himself a terror to the household. Mrs. Shields and the baby left the house and secured a neighbor's assistance, while Mr. Shields, senior, having somewhat recovered and run to the barn, secured a pitch fork, and stood ready to receive cavalry, in the person of Mr. Thompson, should his military instinct again lead him to charge. The neighbor took Mr. Thompson in tow and when he was sober he was in the much advertised goal of Upper Woodstock, a wiser and a soberer and a sadder man.

John Thompson, the U.S. pensioner, sober and John Thompson, the U. S. pensioner, drunk, are evidently two different persons as much as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. At the court, the prisoner expressed his deep regret for what had occurred, and laid it to the door of John Barleycorn. An amusing incident aroused the humour of the court. After his telling evidence against the prisoner Mr. Shields wanted to sign his name. He could not find his specs, so with true military grace, Mr. Thompson drew his own glasses from his pocket and handed them to the complainant, saying, "How will these suit you?" He urged the magistrate to settle his case at once, and not send him up for trial, and the P. M. said he would give a decision on Monday.

On Monday the Police Magistrate sentenced Thompson to four months in gaol.

HONORABLY ACQUITTED.

No Charges of Any Kind Against the Police.

The charges against the town police have been entirely dropped, and the force stands honorably acquitted of any sins of commission or omission.

A meeting of the police committee was held in the office of the police magistrate on the afternoon of the 15th, when the occasion was open for any one to prefer charges.

Coun. Carr as chairman of the committee

called upon anyone to do so, if they felt aggrieved, but nothing in the nature of a charge was forthcoming.

The chairman declared the police free from guilt, and then uprose Mr. A. B. Connell, Q. C., representing the town marshal. Mr. Connell said that these charges formed a serious matter for Mr. Gibson. The charges had been made by no less a personage than the mayor, presiding at the town council. If these charges were true they ought to have been investigated, if not true, the mayor ought to have had the manliness to withdraw them. As far as Mr. Gibson is concerned he is prepared to defend himself against these charges, and is anxious for an investigation.

Coun. Carr said it seemed that these charges had been made in open council, and referred to the police committee. The committee made an appointment for them to be preferred. There is no one to press them, and he did not know of any other course to pursue than to honorably exonerate the police.

Mr. Connell—Do I understand the committee to say that Mr. Gibson is accused of something.

Coun. Carr—We say that the mayor has made some charges, but he does not seem to be following them up. I notified him to be here, personally.

It was then decided to send Constable McAlpine to ask the mayor to come to the court if he had anything to say against the police.

Mr. McAlpine returned from seeing the mayor, and stated that he (the mayor) said he wanted nothing more to do with the gentlemen of the police committee after the way they acted the other night.

Coun. Carr—The marshal then stands honorably discharged from any charges.

Then, the curtain fell on act No. III. of The Police Fiasco.

A Scholarly Letter.

Jaksuntoun Nov. 21 1898.—Mr. Editor, Pa an Ma sed as i hed kommensed tu go tu skuel i hed beter rite sum fur the despach. i aint bin goin tu skuel long but our techer Miss Eliza Manyouel sais i kin rite rale gud for the chances ive hed, enywey Eliza is a rale gud techea an i kin lern more, pa sais i hed beter rite fur the despach fur they hav a bigger surkulashun then the uther paypurs und mor fokes will se my frust literaril artekel. the trustees in our destrik air bound tu keep our skuel house warm this winter kose they hev paneted it al over an banked it al rowend with rokes, pa an ma seys the rokes will keep it afulwarm.

Jaksuntoun is giten tu be quite a place we hev a sider facture an lots uv fokes make sassage and we hev a doktor tu keep fokes frum giten sik, an a J. P. an a konstaybul tu keep the fokes that dont git sik frum giten mast, an fitea an wilyum knolle an a little lastee boy runs a thrashing mayshine. it is a gud mayshine tu i forgit the name of it but it is named fur wun uv them things they hev out west wat blows so hard, i dont mene polytishuns fur we hev them in this kuntry, but yu kin ask masteer kounel he will no, fur he maid it. Ed eastee hed a plowing frolik the uther dey an a oister stue in the eaving i went an druv the teem fur pa an hed sum the oisters to.

Mrs. buril briten hes bin visiten her sister mrs. ed eastee

mister fred berpes hes got a very remarkable tree groing by the rode side, on the last nite uv oktober it buded bloomed blumned and brot forth frute in one nite an it took to men an our an a haf tu pick it, an the fun uv it was it wasent his wen it was piked. wel i wont rite eny mor this time fur i no editors git mad sumtimes tho pa sais they hev more payshunce then eny race uv peapul he nose. most peapul what rites fur paypurs hes a litteraire name so i will sine myself.—felix.

SEEKING DIVORCE.

Former Woodstock Man Applies to Wisconsin Court.

Johnston Saunders, formerly of Woodstock, is to test the power of a New Brunswick marriage to withstand the influences of a Wisconsin court, for he has begun an action for divorce from his wife, Jennie, in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, Wis.

Saunders alleges that he was married July 15, 1880, at Woodstock, New Brunswick, but that he and his wife never lived together as husband and wife, asserting that she, on or about the date of their marriage, wilfully, unlawfully and without any cause, excuse or justification deserted him and has at all times since neglected and refused to live with him. He says that he is now, and has been for more than a year past, a resident of the State of Wisconsin, but has no knowledge of the whereabouts of his wife. For these reasons he demands that the bonds of matrimony now existing between them be dissolved and set aside.—St. John Globe.

Another Woodstock Warrior.

Coun. R. B. Jones has just received a letter from his half brother, Wm. B. Jones, who is now in Havana, and one of Uncle Sam's soldiers. He is on guard with the rest of the boys. He says that one third of the Americans are laid up with the fever. He is well, himself.

WHY NOT HAVE THIS, THUS?

A Proposal to Extend the Town Boundaries

And Include Upper Woodstock, so Settling the Gaol Question.—Electric Cars Will Soon be Running, Making Rapid Transit Possible.—Worth Consideration.

The gaol question is serious enough—for all except the contractor, anyway, who can sit in his chair and figure up his damages, with a dead sure feeling that they will come all right. Whoever stands to lose, he will not.

There is a new proposition afloat, and it certainly is worth consideration. Some time ago THE DISPATCH suggested that if the Court House would not come to town the town must go to the Court House.

It is now proposed that the limits of the Town of Woodstock be extended so as to embrace the Upper Corner within the limits of the corporation. The new buildings being erected at the upper end of town plainly show in which direction the town is growing. It is extending towards the north. By taking in Upper Woodstock the town would extend the waterworks system to that village. This would be a great convenience and safety to the residents there. Then, there would be no difficulty about the sanitary arrangements of the gaol.

At the rate Woodstock is growing it will just be a few years before an electric railway system will be running through the town. This would, of course, extend to the Upper Corner, and the difficulty of passage between the town and the court house during sessions of the court would be overcome. There is no question but that the Iron Works will be running at the Corner shortly. Then it will boom and as the town grows, up it will grow down till they come to shaking-hands distance of each other.

The taxes in Woodstock are not high. We own our waterworks, our sewer system and our electric light system, and with due economy, it will be always as it is now, a cheap place to reside in.

Now its a question between a new court house and gaol in town, or—the partnership between Woodstock town and the Corner.

After this is done, we may take in Hartland—if they're good.

Criminal Statistics.

According to the Blue Book of criminal statistics just issued the total convictions in Carleton Co. for the year ending 30th Sept. 1897 were 93, 91 males, and 2 females. 35 of these convictions were for drunkenness, ten for frequenting bawdy houses and inmates thereof, nine for assault, six vagrancy, three breaches of municipal law, one insulting and obscene language. The total number of convictions has decreased, during the year, in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, while it has increased in all the other provinces. On looking over the number of convictions since 1887, it will be noticed that during that period drunkenness has increased in every province of the Dominion, except in Ontario where on the contrary, a remarkable decrease is shown. Convictions for drunkenness increased in this province from 4.0 per cent in 1887 to 11.3 per cent in 1897.

Reciprocity.

The proceedings at Washington between the British and American commissioners appear to be progressing quite favorably, and it is hoped many questions which have caused friction between the two nations will be permanently settled. It is not so sure that a reciprocity treaty will be secured, as the Americans insist on the abolition of the preferential on English goods, before reciprocity can be agreed to.

Reciprocity appears to be a good thing, but the trouble with such an arrangement lies in the fact that it has no element of permanency. Trade runs in a certain channel during the existence of such a treaty, and when the treaty is abrogated confusion results. The British Commissioners will scarcely give up the preferential at the bidding of a foreign nation, however friendly that nation may be.

Sending Their Tintypes.

In a lengthy interview concerning the autumnal showers of meteors, Professor E. Stone Wiggins expresses this novel and rather startling opinion: "I am disposed to think that the people of Mars throw stones to the earth containing portraits of themselves, some containing written characters like that which fell at Binghamton. Pliny and other ancient writers speak of agates and other stones containing portraits of the gods. Why should not the Marsians throw missiles to the earth to inform us of their existence and condition when they form enormous lights and geometrical figures on the surface of their planet to attract attention?"