

## GIDEON'S BATTLE.

BY FREDERICK VEEDER.

The career of Mr. Gideon Leather at Singing Bird taught several things, such as that discretion is the better part of valor; that it is not necessary to be heroic to be a hero; that a bold front is better than a strong arm. But chiefly it called attention to the power of mind over matter. "Always abuse somebody in every issue—it makes the paper interesting," Mr. Leathers used to say to the office "devil." "If they don't like it, offer to quit; but never do it."

The town of singing bird was situated near the Missouri River. It was somewhat decayed, and the people had little to do except attend to the affairs of their neighbors, and gather at the post-office and other convenient resorts and hold long discussions on politics, religion and other topics of general interest. Most of their food for thought was drawn from the local paper, the Singing Bird *Sentinel*. For years the entire town took a deep elvish pride in this sheet, read it carefully, and criticised it freely. Scarcely a week passed that Old Subscriber, Tax Payer, Vox Populi, and other sturdy citizens did not contribute to its columns, and usually an interminable discussion of some vital topic was kept up, ranging from the question of the advisability of building a new cross-walk to the railroad station to that of the immortality of the soul.

For a long time this was rather favored by the editor, a slow individual named Bunday. It helped fill up, and exacted no tax on the Bundayian intellect, a department not perhaps, of sufficient size to be subject to any form of taxation; so in this way the Birds, as the denizens of the place were called by the neighboring towns, came to look upon the *Sentinel* as a sort of public institution committed to their care.

But in good time Bunday died (he was old enough), and Mr. Gideon Leathers made his advent. Gideon belonged to the new school of journalism. He announced that he should put some ginger into the *Sentinel*. The first morning that he took hold "Uncle" Ben Tillinghast dropped in with a bulky roll of manuscript (written in blue ink on both sides of the paper) which he explained was a little disquisition on infant baptism, wherein he rather reckoned he knocked the position of Deacon Humphrey, as taken in the last week's issue, into a cocked hat.

"What is it?" asked Leathers.

"Wha—what's what?" returned Uncle Ben.

"Infant baptism."

"Why—why, it's a doctrine, you know. The Deacon favours it—I'm again' it. We've been having a little set-to about it in the *Sentinel* during the winter. The Deacon was beat out of his boots two months ago, but he ain't sensed it yet."

Five minutes later Uncle Ben emerged from the *Sentinel* office with his thesis under his arm, and explained to his friends that Singing Bird needed a new paper.

Leathers now proceeded industriously with his process of gingerizing his new possession. He cast all communications from Old Settler, Pro Bono Publico, and similar authorities into the waste-basket with a snort which startled his one compositor at the case. He began to print news and opinions about persons and things which equally startled his readers. Naturally he was soon called upon to make retractions, but retractions were repugnant to his natures. He even went further than that historic journalist who, after announcing that a certain man was dead, and on being confronted by the individual in the flesh, with a demand for a correction of his statement, said that it couldn't be done, but that he was willing in the next issue to print the injured caller's name under the head of Births; with Leathers, if he said a man was dead, he *was* dead, as far as the *Sentinel* was concerned, and it would go on talking about "our late departed townsman," and refer to past occurrences as having happened "about the time Mr. So-and-so died," though Mr. So-and-so might be trudging about town in the happy enjoyment of boisterous good health.

Of course attempts were soon made to obtain retractions by force, and failing in this, to get redress by the pleasing process known in our enlightened country as "taking it of his hide." The Birds were the more moved thereto by the example of a neighboring town also possessed of a belligerent journalist, where one of the recognized forms of amateur sport was "licking the editor." But this worker was unfortunate in being a likable size, and in his habit of fighting back, in both of which respects the editor of the *Sentinel* had the advantage. The dimensions of the able Leathers were some five feet two inches in length, with a width and thickness indicated by a weight of one hundred and ten pounds. As for his pugilistic habits, a

good notion may be obtained of them by the statement that he would not have resisted a man even smaller than himself, if such had been extant.

Of course various essays in the proper chastisement of Leathers were made. It began with a man named Thomas Bridger, generally known as Big Tom. Mr. Bridger did not belie his sobriquet. The *Sentinel* slandered him, and he spent a half-hour about town acquainting his friends with his intention to "wallop that liar." He was gone some little time and his friends waited expectantly. When he returned they asked him if his visit had been successful.

"No; I couldn't see him," answered Big Tom ruefully.

"Wasn't he in?"

"Yes he was there."

"How do you know if you couldn't see him?"

"I heard his voice."

"What did he say?"

"He called me some names, and told me to go home and mind my own business."

"Still you couldn't see him?"

"Couldn't seem to place him nohow. Heard him hopping around and yelling, but there wa'n't no getting my eye on him. I wanted to whale him good and hard, but I ain't the feller to hold a magnifying-glass in one hand while I wallop him with the other. My idee now is to go up and catch him on a sheet of sticky fly-paper."

Mr. Bridger, it will be observed, was the possessor of a broad and mellow humor.

But other objectors with greater austerity of character frequently succeeded in isolating Mr. Leathers and thrashing him in a scientific manner. To these attentions he offered not the least resistance, though his vocal protests were loud enough. The fact is Gideon's courage was all mental, and when confronted by a determined person he would freely beg for mercy, and promise retraction and all manner of redress, which promises he would keep in his next issue by redoubling his abuse of the individual. He never made any show of face-to-face courage except in the case of good natured persons like Big Tom, where he felt there was no danger, when he would talk as truculently as he wrote. The consequence of all this was that Leathers became the laughing-stock of the community, and a man beneath contempt. And as if to add to the ridiculousness of the situation, he constantly asserted in his paper that he could, if he cared to, demolish any man in the neighborhood, and he gave frequent warnings that some one would yet try him too far and pay for it with broken bones, if not with his life. The idea conveyed was that he was a sleeping volcano, or at best a drowsy lion. Fortune favored him, and he was one day able to make good his bellicose claims.

It happened that a travelling quack doctor came to town to remain a week and exterminate local disease. Unhappily for him, he failed to call at the *Sentinel* office and insert an advertisement. When this journal appeared Saturday morning the better part of one page was boiling with rage at the peripatetic physician. He was abused in every way possible; no stone of the English language was left unturned in handling him. Naturally the fellow was enraged, and promptly announced that he should thrash the editor. This speedily came to the ears of Leathers, and he sat in his office in dire apprehension. He had not long to wait. In walked the alleged man of medicine, red-faced and furious. He was short but thick set and powerful, and clearly lacking in neither courage nor agility. The knees of Leathers smote together, and his nerveless jaw dropped. The intruder took one sweeping glance about the office and then looked at poor Gideon and fairly roared.

"Boy, where's the editor of this paper?"

Instantly Gideon's knees ceased their rapid vibration, and his jaws snapped back into place.

"Do you wish to see him, sir?" he asked.

"I do and mighty sudden," vociferated the quack.

"All right, sir; fetch him up in a moment, sir," and Leathers clapped on his hat and rushed out the door and down the outside stairs. Right at the foot of the stairs he met a tall, rawboned man, apparently just in from the back districts.

"See here, boy," cried the man, laying a heavy hand on his shoulder, "got anything to do with the outfit upstairs?"

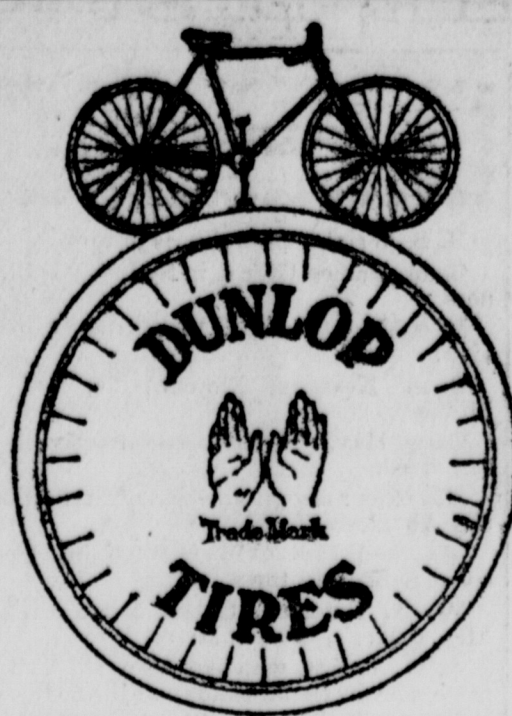
"Nothing," answered Leathers. "Been up to buy a paper."

"Good for you. My name is Pete Boland. Live out beyond the lake. This here paper has been abusing me for a month, and I've made a special trip over here to pound the breath out of the editor. Can you tell me where he is?"

"Right up in the office, sir," said Leathers. "Short, thick-set man, wearing a plug hat and a big watch-chain."

"All right. Get away from the building

"My Woman, is it the Kidney?"—Investigation is half the discovery. A woman would prove faulty kidneys the seat of the trouble. If you're troubled with that tired, dragging feeling, have an almost constant heaviness, maybe sharp pains in the head, put South American Kidney Cure to the test. You'll find it the long sought friend, and it never fails.—25c Sold by Garden Bros.



A Bicycle fitted with Dunlop Tires is held in higher estimation because its maker put a perfect finish on it. You can have Dunlop Tires with "the thickened tread" on any wheel you buy—no extra charge.

'cause things are going to fly around a good bit."

"Yes, sir. Lemme give you a little advice."

"Out with it."

"Jump on him quick. Don't give him a chance to move. He's got a gun in his desk and if he ever gets it you're a goner!"

"Don't worry—just you stand from under!" and he bounded up the stairs.

It happened to be noon time, and everybody was home at dinner. Gideon went across a side street and stepped into a stable. The sounds of strife, earnest and titanic, were not long in reaching him. He imagined he could see the whole building tremble, and pieces of furniture, mallets column rules, fire-shovels, and other debris came flying through the window. At the end of five minutes what had once been a prosperous quack doctor lunged down the front stairs wrecked and ruined, and at the same moment what was left of a certain ranchman rolled down the back stairs. The first bounded away toward the railroad station—the second tore off across the prairie. Leathers slipped across the street and up stairs.

A few minutes later when a knot of the townspeople appeared at this door they found Gideon with his coat off, his hair dishevelled, and his shirt sleeves torn, furiously rushing about straightening up the office.

What's happened, Leathers?" they asked. Didn't I always tell you?" cried Gideon.

"Didn't I always warn you? Didn't you know there was a limit to my patience? Both of those fellows you saw running jumped on me at once. It was too much! My temper got the best of me at last. I can stand a good deal, but I can't stand everything!" and he picked up a flattened silk hat and a some brero which looked like a dish-rag and threw them out the window.

Gideon Leathers was never molested in that community again. When people mentioned him they spoke with bated breath, and after first having looked over their shoulders.

General William W. Henry, With Us In Canada.

HE IS AMERICAN CONSUL IN QUEBEC CITY.

STRONGLY INDORSES Paine's Celery Compound THE MARVELLOUS SPRING MEDICINE

Many of the wondrous successes and decisive victories of Paine's Celery Compound over disease and death are well known to the people of the seven provinces of our Dominion.

No other medicine ever given to suffering humanity has met with such approval from physicians, from nurses caring for the sick, from men and women of culture and influence, and from the sensible and thinking people of the toiling class. All unite in one grand chorus of praise—"Paine's Celery Compound is earth's best and surest spring health-restorer and health-giver."

General William W. Henry, American Consul, in the city of Quebec, writes as follows about Paine's Celery Compound:

"It gives me great pleasure to indorse Paine's Celery Compound, both on account of the results obtained from personal use of the remedy and knowledge of the remarkable cures it has performed. I believe it has no equal in curing diseases of the nervous system and building up those who are weak and out of health. It has cured several friends of mine of rheumatism in its worst form, and I have no hesitancy in recommending it to all afflicted with that disease."

Samuel Johnson's Marriage.

Speaking of all the newspaper fuss over weddings in high life, Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson has recently taken occasion to remark that the best marriage of this sort recorded in all history is that of Samuel

**AIR RIFLE** given for selling only 25 doz. packages Sweet Pea Seed at 10c. each. Each package contains a splendid mixture of the most fragrant varieties of all colors. The rifle is of the best make and model, with polished nickel barrel, trigger guard and slide plates. It has improved Globe sights, pistol grip and walnut stock, and shoots with terrific force and great accuracy. Mail us this advertisement and we will forward the Rifle to you free by Express. The season for selling seeds is short, so order at once. Seed Supply Co., Toronto.

Johnson, as described by Boswell. "I told her," he says, "that I was of mean extraction, that I had no money, and that I had had an uncle hung," to which the lady responded that she valued no man the more or less for his parentage, that as for money she had none herself, and had nothing to expect on that score, and that, although she had never had a near relation literally and exactly hung, she had as many as twenty who deserved to be, and she wished they were. After which they were married.

## Now I Feel Real Well

Mr. W. H. La Blance, Bonfield, Ont., writes:—"I was once a sufferer from catarrh, and while using Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure I was recommended to use also Dr. Chase's Nerve Food to build up the system. My nerves were exhausted and I was too weak to do a day's work when I began using it, and now am strong and healthy, and feel real well. I am perfectly sure that anyone who uses Dr. Chase's Nerve Food will believe as I do, that it is the best strengthener and restorative obtainable."

## Charm of Personality.

No matter how plain your face may be, you can become a stylish and fine looking woman if you cultivate a good carriage and a certain individuality in dress, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. You know that the most fascinating women in the world have been plain looking. There is a charm of personality that has nothing whatever to do with bright eyes or pretty hair. Do all you can to improve your complexion, cultivate a pleasant expression by having a cheerful disposition, and then train your body to symmetry and gracefulness. You exaggerate your defects and you are supersensitive. After you have done your best to look pretty, forget about yourself and make others look happy. You can always be well groomed, and that is something that gives a woman distinction.

Bentley's Liniment cures Quinsey.

## McClure's Magazine for March.

The March issue of McClure's Magazine is one of notable value, a value at once timely and permanent. The leading feature is a character study of Edward VII., written by the man in America most competent for the task, George W. Smalley, the correspondent of the London Times. Accompanying the articles are pictures which form a series of portraits of the new sovereign from earliest youth to the present. Following this appreciation of the King, there is a collection of pictures of Queen Victoria. These are thirty in number, reproductions of photographs and paintings, and the are a complete pictorial souvenir of the Monarch. A descriptive text accompanies them.

## Corn Lightning

That's Putnam's Corn Extractor. Gives corns tired feeling in about twenty-four hours. They consequently get out as they cannot keep up the pain any longer—makes them weary—its Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor that does this. Now don't forget. All druggists.

## Aphorisms.

Victory belongs to the most persevering.—Napoleon.

Be wise worldly, but not worldly wise.—Francis Quarles.

Reserve is the truest expression of respect towards those who are its objects.—De Quincey.

A duty is no sooner divined than from that very moment it becomes binding upon us.—Amiel.

A man who cannot command his temper should not think of being a man of business.—Chesterfield.

He who forgets his own friends meanly to follow after those of higher degree is a snob.—Thackeray.

The most delicate, the most sensible of all pleasures consists in promoting the pleasure of others.—Bryere.

Cultivate forbearance till your heart yields a fine crop of it. Pray for a short memory to all unkindness.—Spurgeon.

Those who are industrious in any calling are capable of further blessings, whereas the idle are fit for nothing but temptation.—Bishop Hall.

**For "Run-down" People** there's nothing known in medical treatment to-day so effective and certain of a cure and so magical in its building up power as South American Nerve, because it strikes at the root of all nervous ailments, the digestive organs, makes rich red blood, drives away emaciation, puts on flesh and makes over physical wrecks generally.—148 Sold by Garden Bros.

## Bananas as Sick Diet.

A St. Louis physician has lately confirmed the previously stated belief, accepted in some medical quarters, in the value of the banana as a food for typhoid patients. During the progress of this malady the membranes which line the small intestines become gorged and inflamed, ultimately leaving ulcers, which make the intestinal walls extremely thin and sensitive. Solid foods are therefore exceedingly dangerous, as they are liable to rupture the bowel. But, on the other hand, it is now positively asserted that the banana is both safe and beneficial, its stomach practically absorbing the fruit owing to its nature. It contains only about 5 per cent. of waste matter, 95 per cent. possessing nutritive properties.

**The Iceman's Troubles.**—"My business," says John Gay, ice dealer, of Wingham, Ont., "is one of the most fertile fields under the sun for sowing the seeds for rheumatic suffering. For five years I was a great invalid, words cannot convey the faintest idea of my intense suffering and constant pain endured. 6 bottles of South American Rheumatic Cure permanently cured me." 146 Sold by Garden Bros.

**FREE**

**Prescriptions Carefully Compounded**

—FROM—

**PURE DRUGS**

**CHAS. McKEEN,**  
DRUGGIST,

Main Street, Woodstock.

## BOOKS!

Stationery,  
Wall Paper,  
Fine China,  
Novelties.

**W. H. Everett,** Woodstock.

No. 6 Main Street.

Near Bridge.

**NEWS AT SEMPLE'S,**  
East Florenceville.

**New Store New System and New Goods.**

First of July, 1900, we started business in our new store. First of January 1901, we started doing business under pay down system, and we find we can give more Tinware, more Granite Ware, more Hardware, and more Ready Mixed Paints for the same amount of money than we could under the old system. Call and see.

**SEMPLER'S - NEW - STORE,**  
EAST FLORENCEVILLE.

**FREE WATCH**

We give a handsome open face, polished Nickel Watch, American Lever Movement for selling only 2 doz. packages of Sweet Pea Seed at 10c. apackage. Each package contains a splendid mixture of the most fragrant varieties of all colors. You can earn this fine Watch in an afternoon by setting to work at once. Mail us this advertisement and we will forward the Seeds. Sell them, return the money, and we guarantee safe delivery of your Watch at once. Write to day, as the season for selling seeds is short. Seed Supply Co., Toronto

**Tobique River Log Driving Co.**

CONTRACT FOR DRIVING.

There will be sold at public auction, in front of the Court House, at Andover, in the County of Victoria, on TUESDAY, the NINTH day of APRIL next, at two of the clock in the afternoon, the contract for three years for driving logs, timber and other lumber down the Tobique River from the Forks (so called) and points below the Forks aforesaid, to the mouth of said river where same enters the River Saint John.

The contract to contain such clauses and conditions as the Direction may prescribe, to secure the faithful and satisfactory performance of the work. The Contractor also to give a bond with two sureties to secure the faithful performance of the conditions and terms of the contract, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 86 of 58th Victoria, Acts of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick.

Dated at Andover, in the County of Victoria, N. B., the 26th day of February, A. D. 1901.

HENRY HILYARD, President.

J. C. HARTLEY, Secretary for Company.

## NOTICE.

The seventh annual meeting of the Tobique River Log Driving Company will be held at the Village of Andover, in the County of Victoria, at Beveridge's Hall, in said village, on TUESDAY, the NINTH day of APRIL next, at one of the clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors, and the transaction of such business as may legally come before the meeting.

Dated the 26th day of February, A. D. 1901.

HENRY HILYARD, President.

J. C. HARTLEY, Secretary for Company.

N. B.—Every owner of logs or other lumber or timber intended to be driven by said Company during the coming season, must file with the Secretary a statement of the same, on or before the day of the annual meeting, and no lumberman can come a member of the said company, nor be entitled to vote at its meeting until said statement has been filed.

**Salt Rheum Cured Quick.**—Dr. Agnew's Ointment cures Salt Rheum and all itching or burning skin diseases in a day. One application gives almost instant relief. For Itching, Blind, or Bleeding Piles it stands without a peer. Cures in three to six nights. 35 cents.—15c Sold by Garden Bros.