

Literature.

CHALK YOUR OWN DOOR.

His proper name was Jeremiah Marden, but he had not been in the village a week before everybody called him Jerry Marden, and within six weeks he was known as Jerry Muddle.

It was a very good shoemaker, but he stood no chance with George Stevens, a sober man, and so drifted into becoming a cobbler.

Jerry's one idea was to get a job, and having done it, to invest the proceeds in drinks at his favorite beer shop, "The Oram Arms."

His score at "The Oram Arms" was a large one, and the chalks stood up against him like files of soldiers; but Jerry ignored their existence—paying off a little now and then, and drinking more of such like increase of debt against him.

"I can't go on any longer, Jerry," he said. "The last sum I had of you was three shillings, and you have paid nothing for a fortnight."

"Work is slack," murmured Jerry, but the harvest is coming on, and then everybody will have ready money to spare.

"Perhaps so," returned Mr. Rewitt; "but you will have as much as you can square off in the meantime."

"I've been a good customer to you, Mr. Rewitt. Almost every day I've been in on beer, if living it can be called, and my wife and children have had to shift how they could for bread."

"That's nothing to me," said the landlord. "Let me have one pint."

"I've been a good customer to you, Mr. Rewitt. Almost every day I've been in on beer, if living it can be called, and my wife and children have had to shift how they could for bread."

"Then he will go to the 'Green Goose' and get his drink there," said Mrs. Rewitt.

"They won't trust him a penny," returned her husband with a grin. "He's tried it on and failed, and so I've got him if he does not pay up I'll make him."

"There's nothing to get out of that head," said Mrs. Rewitt, shaking her head. "I've had her there's no man for them to sit down upon; and Jerry's wife—clean and tidy as she manages to keep herself—looks more like a skeleton than a woman."

"That's Jerry's lookout," replied Mr. Rewitt, coolly. "If he can't afford it, he shouldn't drink."

The subject was dismissed, and Jerry forgotten in the noise and bustle of the usual evening business.

"My husband tells me," she said, "that he has a heavy score here. How much is it?"

"I'm almost too busy to tell you," replied the landlord, "but if it is pressing I will reckon it up."

"This pressing, and I will be very thankful if you will let me know what it is," returned the poor woman, who was indeed wan and pale, and almost justified the title of "skeleton," which Mrs. Rewitt had given her.

The landlord went through the chalks twice, and finally announced that Jerry was indebted to him to the amount of two pounds seven shillings and four pence.

"I suppose she is thinking to make an effort to pay it off," said Mr. Rewitt, addressing his better half, "and I hope she will; but I fancy it will be a little too much for her."

For a whole week nothing was seen or heard of Jerry; but at the end of that time his wife appeared and put down five shillings on the counter.

"Will you please take that off the amount still," she said, "and give me a receipt?"

This was done with a gracious smile and Jerry's wife departed. Mr. Rewitt announced his having hit the right nail on the head. The wife of the cobbler was making an effort to clear off her husband's debt.

At the end of another week a second five shillings was paid, and then harvest came on—truly a harvest to the agricultural laborer, as at that time he gathers in clothing, and whatever necessities his harvest money will enable him to procure.

All the tradesmen in the little village were busy, and even Jerry was reported to be full handed. But he did not come near "The Oram Arms" for drink.

On the third week Jerry's wife brought ten shillings, and on the fourth fifteen, to the great joy and satisfaction of Mr. Rewitt, whose joy, however, was allowed by the fact that he had lost a good customer.

He resolved to look up Jerry as soon as another instalment of his account was paid. Nothing was brought for a fortnight, and the landlord consulted his absent customer, who still owed him over a pound; but the appearance of Jerry's wife with the balance that she had been making him think otherwise. There was no display in putting down the money—it was quickly done—but the happy light in the woman's eyes as she took the receipt, spoke more than mere words of actions.

A couple of loafers, with no money and no credit, who touched their hats to him, Mr. Rewitt favored them with a nod of lofty indifference.

Jerry's cottage was in the middle of the village, standing back about fifty feet from the road, and although its inside poverty had been well known, the outside, thanks to his wife, looked quite as well as its neighbors.

As he approached the door, he heard the sound of heavy hammer upon the lapstone, and to his utter amazement the voice of Jerry carolling a cheerful ditty, occasionally to come out with in the tap-room on the son of the raven. Raising the latch, the landlord of "The Oram Arms" peeped in.

"Good morning, Jerry, he said. "Ah! is that you, Mr. Rewitt?" replied Jerry, looking up. "Come in."

Jerry looked up wondrous clean, and had even been shaved that very morning. His iron shirt looked clean, too, and he actually had a collar.

"You look very well, Jerry," he said at last. "Never felt better in my life," replied Jerry, looking up. "I don't say any the same of you. You look whitish."

"I've got a bit of a cold," replied the other, "and I have been shut up a good deal with business lately. Trade's been brisk; but how is it we have not seen you?"

"Well—the fact is, sir," said Jerry, rubbing his chin, "I've been busy wiping off your score."

"But it is done, man," said Mr. Rewitt, cheerfully. "The door is quite clean, as far as you are concerned."

"Others have not got their share," said the landlord, facetiously; "but I think we could make room for you, if you look us up in your own way."

"No, thanks, sir," returned Jerry. "I've had enough of chalking on other people's doors, and now I chalk on my own."

"Chalk on your own?" interrupted Jerry. "For I am the only party as keeps that account."

"But who trusts you to do that?" "Nobody but myself," replied Jerry. "The marks that were on your door showed what I did drink, and then marks on mine shows what I do not drink."

A little light had got into the landlord's brain, and he had a very good idea of what was coming, but he said nothing.

"That night when you spoke to me about the chalks on the door being a standing disgrace to me, was the night of my making," continued Jerry. "No man could have lectured me better than you did, and I thank you for it from the bottom of my heart. As I left your door I vowed to touch drink no more, and I came home and told my wife so, and we both joined in earnest prayer that I might have strength to keep my word."

"The next morning I went over to George Stevens and asked him how I could go about signing the pledge. He helped me like a man—and it was done."

With his eyes wandering to and fro between Jerry and the chalks upon the door, the amazed landlord remained silent. "Jerry went on—"

"My wife wanted to work herself to death to keep me," he said, "but I said 'no.' You do what you can to keep the children until my debts are paid, and then I'll keep you and the children too."

"So I went to work, paying right and left; and when all was paid off I began to do what I ought to have done years ago—fed my wife and children. I had enough to eat, and I would have had some with you. And many's the time I've been tempted to come—and I'm emptied still; but when the feeling comes over me I take a drink of water or a cup of tea, puts three-pence into the box I've got on purpose, and scores a chalk on the door. All of them chalks are so many three-pence."

"Jerry, complacently, 'and the more I look at them the better I like them. There's no need of standing disgrace about that lot; credit if anything.'"

"Oh! yes—yes," returned the landlord; "but—dear me—this cold in my head is quite distressing, and I must have a large box of all your waxes."

"When I get six together I take them to the post-office," replied Jerry. "There's a bank there better than any till. They give nothing out, but banks like that return you more than you put in. Until I have to keep my own chalks I had no idea how much your till swallowed up."

"I'll chalk your own door a pint, but I can have my money out of the bank when I want it."

"That's something," said Mr. Rewitt, tartly. "It is everything to a man who has a wife and children to keep, replied Jerry."

"I'm sure you have sickness and trouble and rainy days, and then it's a great thing to have some money to put in, and it's better to be able to keep yourself than to go to the parish. There's another thing too, about these chalks of mine—comes went down before my wife and children were fed; mine go down after that; and I think that my chalks are the better of the two. So I say to all, 'Chalk your own door.'"

Mr. Rewitt had nothing to say; he could not deny and he would not admit it, but took refuge like other bidden men in flight. With the boots under his arm he hastened home and presented himself before his wife in a rather excited condition.

"What is the matter, Richard?" she asked. "Nothing particular, he replied except that Jerry Muddle has joined the temperance lodge, and he seems so firm in it that I don't believe he will ever touch a drop again."

Mr. Richard Rewitt of "The Oram Arms" was right, and Jerry, who bears his name no longer, but is called by that to which he is entitled by right of birth, viz., that of Marden, had not touched a drop of strong drink from the day of his reformation to this. His door has been filled again and again with the score he records in his own favor; and the beer he has not drunk is everywhere around him in the form of a comfortable home, a respectable amount in the bank, and a goodly investment in a building society. Verbum sat sapienter, which being freely interpreted means, "A word to the wise is sufficient."

"Clank your own door,"

Last year Texas imported corn, but this year will have 50,000,000 bushels to sell. That Husband of Mine is three times the man he was before he began using "Wells' Health Renewer."

TEARFUL.—Get your mouth full by using "TEARFUL" the new wonder for the Teeth and Breath. Brush vigorously. See directions. 5 cent samples.

Michigan is suffering again this season from immense forest fires, which have burned over several square miles of territory near Bay City, doing immense damage to buildings, fences, timber and live stock.

Answer This. Can you find a case of Bright's Disease of the Kidneys, Diabetes, Urinary or Liver Complaints that is curable, that Hop Bitters has not cured? Ask your neighbors if they can.

JACOBS OIL. THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frosted Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

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3lb. Liquor Tea for \$1.50, and your choice of a Handsome Volume. 4lb. Good Black English Tea for \$1, good flavor and strength.

GOOD MIXED COFFEE 20cts. per lb. JAMAICA 26cts. JAVA 30cts. CANNED GOODS at Lowest Prices. Corn 15 cents per Can.

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Would invite an inspection of his Stock of SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS, CONSISTING OF English and Scotch Suitings, FANCY TROUSERS, SPRING OVERCOATINGS, WORSTED AND DIAGONAL COATINGS, Fancy Vestings and Serges, Fine Broadcloths & Doeskins.

WM. JENNINGS, Merchant Tailor. Making it one of the most desirable Stocks to select from in the city.

JACKSON ADAMS, CABINET MAKER AND UNDERTAKER. (near County Court House.) Queen Street, - - Fredericton.

CHANGE OF BUSINESS. Go-Partnership Notice. THESE subscribers would like to inform the public that they have this day associated themselves in the Gas-fitting, Plumbing, and Tinsmith business.

KIDNEY-WORT IS A SURE CURE for all diseases of the Kidneys and LIVER. It has specific action on the most important organs, restoring the healthy secretion of the blood.

Wrought Iron Furnaces on hand, and fitted up in the latest and most improved manner. Pumps of all kinds, Pipe and Fittings, Well Drilling done to order.

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JUST OPENED S. F. SHUTE'S, 2 cases, containing the following: German Work and Lunch Baskets, Japanese Bamboo Baskets, PHILANDONERS RAZORS, SCISSORS, POCKET KNIVES, Nickel Paper Weights, ASH PANS, NUT PICKS, Fruit Knives, Cigar Lighters, and Ventilated Armlets.

A NICE LOT OF WALKING STICKS. Long Handled JAPANESE FANS for Covering. Also a choice lot of Briar Pipes.

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British and Canadian TWEEDS, Diagonals, BROAD CLOTHS, DOESKINS, Etc. GENTLEMEN'S Wedding and Mourning Outfits A SPECIALTY.

The Furnishing Department is the Largest in the City. JAS. R. HOWIE, QUEEN ST., FREDERICTON. May 11, 1882

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LEMONT'S VARIETY STORE. FURNITURE POLISH. LEMONT'S Furniture Polish is the best in the market.

LEMONT'S VARIETY STORE. CHILDREN'S Perambulators. Now received, a nice line, at Lemont's Variety Store.

LEMONT'S VARIETY STORE. 3,756 PIECES Milk Pans, Crocks, Flower Pots, Preserve Jars, Butter Crocks &c., Wholesale and Retail, cheap at Lemont's Variety Store.

LEMONT'S VARIETY STORE. \$5 to \$20 per day at home. Samples worth \$25 free. Address Stinson & Co., Portland, Maine.

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which he is prepared to sell at the lowest possible price. JAS. R. HOWIE, QUEEN ST., FREDERICTON. May 11, 1882

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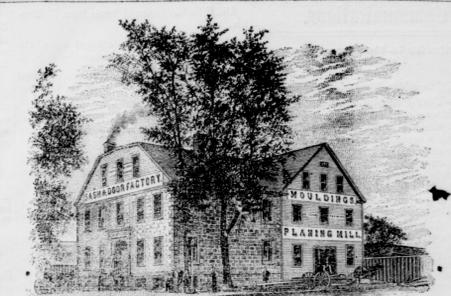
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