

The Auctioneer's Story.

BY IMogene H. SYKES.

This is a strange world! And yet I never thought so until my attention was called to the fact by a little incident that befell me one day, and set me off thinking so hard that I seemed to grow out of my own head and reach a great height, and then look down on my other self with compassion. I don't know that it made me any wiser, but at least, it made me more attentive to their joys and sorrows—and that accounts for something, I reckon.

I had cried dozens of pawnbrokers' sales in my time, and never thought anything about them, unless it was that old Two to One or Give and Take were doubling their money, and making a pretty penny, even with ten per cent. commission taken off.

But I had never thought of the story connected with any one article of the sale—of the heartaches, and despair, and woman's tears. It was but a joke to me, who had known the time when to "spout" a watch, or pistol, or some light trinket, in order to carry on a frolic, or help a poorer chap than I was, was but the impulse of the moment, and carried no further weight than the relief from empty pockets at the moment.

But, as I said before, something made me think, and ever since I haven't the same heart to cry away the goods of the poor creatures that want and misery have driven into old Two to One's clutches.

The city of B— is a splendid market for our business. The trade done there by one house alone would discount any banking, commission or other business in the place, and by the same token, the pawnbrokers equal us in power and profit, and give us some of our biggest sales.

An odd lot came into the warehouse one day, consigned to us by Clutchem & Keep, a shrewd firm of new beginners, and as it fell to my duty to sort and label the goods, it thus also fell to my fate to have a part in the following story.

The consignment consisted mainly of glass and silver-ware, pictures and bronzes, as Clutchem & Keep were rather first-class in their business, and did not yet condescend to clothes and family Bibles; but in the lot I came across a few pieces of furniture, which attracted my attention from the fact of our having an order from a Western house to pick up all the antiques and oddities afloat, for a bric-a-brac firm.

Here were about a dozen specimens of claw-legs, stiff-backs, and otherwise uncomfortable household articles, in the shape of chairs, dressing-glasses and cabinets, and at once labelled them sold, that they might not get into next day's sale, but be forwarded at once to our Western house.

One article alone I noticed with attention enough to remember afterwards, and then only because I struck my hand roughly against it, and the pain made me stare hard at the cause of it. It was an old cedar cabinet, brass-bound and clamped, but rusty and forlorn looking enough in its changed fortunes. I labelled it, as I thought, for our next day's sale, as there were two others to go West, and the home-market was then going crazy for everything old, as either the West or North.

But subsequent events discovered my mistake. Our Saturday sale was a big one—the rival house across on the corner hadn't a chance against it that day—and by noon every article put up was bid off lively and quick.

The crowd had begun to thin, and I was busy mopping my wet face with a fresh handkerchief—for it was warm work, I can tell you, to cry such sales from ten to one o'clock—when a lady came back in the store where I was standing and approached me eagerly.

"Are you the proprietor, sir?" she asked, with nervous haste, and I saw she was trembling.

"I am the auctioneer, madam," I said, wondering what was wrong. "I will call the firm, if you wish."

She looked around, timidly but eagerly. "Perhaps you can attend to my business. I—I do not—understand—these matters—very well," she faltered; and then, I saw she was poorly clad, although well-bred and timid.

I drew an old chair up into the corner, and asked her to sit down, and as she did so gracefully—poor little woman—I took a good look at her. She was still young and pretty.

Behind her hung a long mirror. It had grown dim hanging there, and had a misty shadow over it, and in the two angles of the corner stood a faded old Japanese screen and a tall chest of drawers.

The store was now empty, and the light was now leaving it, as the sun was creeping away from the door-sill and mounting up to the roof, as if he had only waited for the sale to be over.

The lady had a face that touched me at once. She was pale and timid, but there was that in her face that made me take off my hat while I talked to her. I don't know how to express it; but it was as if I stood in the presence of death, and the natural reverence of that great mystery commanded my respect.

"What can I do for you, madam?" I asked.

She had been looking all around her, as if seeking something.

"You sell the goods, do you not?" she said, eagerly.

"Yes, madam."

"You would know the articles sent here?"

superstitious, too; for it seemed to me as if a ghostly pageant was crossing and recrossing that dim mirror, and the old screen shook as if sighs or sobs were coming from it.

"Thank you! I am looking for a cedar cabinet," said the lady, gently, "which was among the articles I parted with to Clutchem & Keep, and am told it was sent here for sale. I wish to redeem it at any price."

She stopped suddenly as my face changed.

A cedar cabinet!

I remembered it at once. The hurt on my hand recalled it, also that it had been labelled for that day's sale.

She grew frightened at my hesitation.

"Do not say it is gone!" she cried, rising quickly, and grasping my arm.

"Oh, God would not so afflict me! Look, look everywhere for it, I beg, I pray you!"

Her hands shook so on my arm that I could feel the quivering of the thin fingers.

I tried to think to whom I had sold a cabinet that day; then it flashed on me that there had not been one in the catalogue.

Had I made a mistake and sent it West with the bric-a-brac lot? If so, it could be recovered. I felt glad for my error, but the poor little woman mistook my silence, and broke down completely, sobbing so pitifully that I knew then that some great cause was hidden beneath her desire to reclaim the old cabinet.

"It is more to me than life or death!" she cried out, passionately, looking straight before her. "It means my children's honor! Listen, and you may be influenced by my great need to find this cabinet for me. I believe it contains the certificate of my marriage and my children's baptism, without which I cannot lay claim to my husband's estate in France. It is not the money I want!" she added, with proud spirit—"I cannot bear to touch that; but my children shall not be robbed of the right to their father's name!"

She paused to look at me. I felt as if a severe tension upon her nerves had given way at last, and crushed by her fear of the cabinet being lost to her, her silence and reserve had broken down, and that she appealed to me unconsciously in her need.

The shadowy pageant passed to and fro across the mirror, and as she went on passionately with her story, it seemed to me I saw the whole sad episode pass in review on the dim surface.

"Fifteen years ago my husband deserted me. Evil influences led him astray, and while for my children's sake I would have pardoned him, I never saw him again or heard one word of him, until I learned through the paper that he was dead, and had left an estate to his wife and children.

"I could not grieve, except that he had died in his sin, unforgiven by me. I was poor, for he left me with only the household furniture, and have toiled all these years to maintain my children—So, for their sakes, I applied to a lawyer to obtain possession of the estate."

"Oh, the shame, the despair, of finding another claimant in France to my children's name and honor!"

"I must prove our claim as wife and children, said the careful French lawyer, by the production of the marriage and baptismal certificates!"

"And I knew not where they were!"

"The minister was dead, the witnesses gone I knew not where."

"I felt then as if my carelessness had dishonored my children, and for days could get no relief from my horrible anxiety, until by a flash, as if from heaven, I remembered that I had placed the certificates with other papers in the old cabinet I had parted with to Clutchem & Keep. I went to them; they had sent it here for sale, and now you—"

She broke down with a moan of despair. It was more than I could stand. That cry and the pitiful story forced me into action at once.

"You shall have back the cabinet, madam!" I said, solemnly, as if devoting my life to its search.

"Oh, sir, you will do a noble deed if you but find it for me!" she cried, gratefully, looking at me with beaming eyes.

Her face looked to me as if a halo came over it, and I dimly felt why I had stood bare-headed before her. Truly had I stood in Death's presence—the death of hope and love in this poor woman's life—the requiem of gladness and impulse.

She left me with a hopeful smile, taking my hand with a pretty grace, and I watched her, in the mirror, go down the shadowy room into the sunlight of the street, and the shadows seemed to fall from her forehead.

I telegraphed to the Western firm. They had the cabinet, and returned it at once; so that before many days the little, nervous fingers were searching, in the presence of the lawyer and myself, for the precious papers.

She found them! I shall never forget her face when she held them up. The halo was there, as she said, so softly.

"Thank God!"

And it seems to me yet, and to make me think how much misery our evil passions can work through selfishness and thoughtlessness.

Jno. W. Nicholson,

Wines, Brandy, Whiskies, ETC., ETC., ETC.

VICTORIA WHARF

Smyth St., St. John, N. B.

For Sale.

The property at Bay du Vin, known as the BAY DU VIN MILL PROPERTY.

Farm consists of about 300 acres, a large portion is cleared, well fenced and under good cultivation. The Water Power Saw Mill on the property is new. The property has a good dwelling, barn and other buildings. Possession given immediately if required. Also two million feet of spruce and pine saw logs will be sold with the property if the purchaser wishes.

Terms: For Mill one-fifth down and balance in equal annual payments extending over four years. For the logs payment after delivery next season as customary.

J. B. SNOWBALL.

General Business.

Dissolution.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing under the name of **MERSEREAU & THOMSON** has been dissolved this day by mutual consent and the business of

Photographing and Picture Framing

will be continued by Mr. E. H. Thomson, at the old stand, and all bills due the late firm are payable to him, and all debts owed by him will be paid by him.

E. H. THOMSON.
Chatham, N. B., Aug. 23rd, 1881.

LOOK THIS WAY!

And learn that having bought M. R. Mercereau's interest in the above business, I shall continue the same on my own account, and shall, until further notice, make Good Photographs, at the

Unprecedented Low Price of **\$1.00 Per Dozen.**

Pictures framed to order.
Call and see for yourselves.

E. H. THOMSON,
Near Canada House.
Chatham, N. B., Aug. 23rd, 1881.

SEWING MACHINE.

I respectfully inform my friends and patrons, that I have by no means given up handling the

WAZNER SEWING MACHINES. and may be found at the Studio above named, where all orders shall receive prompt attention. Repairing attended to as usual.

J. Y. MERSEREAU.
Chatham, April 20th, '81.

SUGAR, FRUIT, ONIONS, &c.

LOCAN, LINDSAY & CO.
Have Received—

45 BBLs EXTRA C. SUGAR
30 do Granulated do;
10 Boxes ORANGES;
5 do LEMONS;
10 Bbls ANISAL OIL;
150 Bbls ONIONS;
300 Boxes LAYER, London Layer, Loose Muscovade;
2 Cases BURNETT'S EXTRACTS;
New Walnuts, Almonds, Quinces, &c.;
25 Bbls AMERICAN OIL, &c., &c.

78 and 80 King Street, St. John.

R. C. PRAYER BOOKS.

A varied assortment of ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOKS, just received at the

MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE,
WILL BE SOLD AT MODERATE PRICES.
Chatham, June 14, 1881.

THE BROCKLEBANK MERCHANT SHIPPING AND TRADING CO. OF LONDON & LIVERPOOL.

UNDER TAKES THE EXECUTION OF INDENTS for British Manufacturers and Exports.

CONTRACTS FOR DELIVERY OF STEAM, HOUSE and Gas Coal, C. I. E. to any Port Abroad.

RECEIVES COGNAC, BRANDY, WHISKY, &c. for Sale, and makes advances thereon.

CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING AND FITTING out of all classes of Steam and Sailing Vessels.

Address the Manager, THOMAS BROCKLEBANK, London. Telegraphic address, "BROCKLEBANK," London.

CUSTOM HOUSE FORMS.

The New Forms Coming into use, July 1st, ARE FOR SALE AT

STEAM MILL FOR SALE!

The Rotary Steam Saw Mill, situated at the lower end of Chatham, opposite Middle Island, known as the "Perley Mill," with all the machinery belonging thereto, including Planer and Box Machine.

To an active enterprising man, this offers a splendid opportunity for investment, as it will be sold at a bargain.

Terms easy. For particulars apply to **G. STOTHART.**
Chatham, Sept. 28, '81.

\$5

Outfit sent free to those who wish to engage in the most pleasant and profitable business known. Capital not required. We will furnish you everything you need for a day and upwards over night. No risk whatever. Many new workers wanted at once. Many are making fortunes at the business. Ladies make as much as men. And young boys and girls make money. No one who is willing to work falls to make money every day than can be made in a week at any ordinary employment. Those who engage at once will find a short road to fortune.

Address H. HALL & Co., Portland, Maine.

JUST THE THING!!

The Monitor Oil Stove.

No more ashes, smoke, dust or trouble.

This is a compact and durable stove burning ordinary coal oil. Perfectly safe, and free from small. Can easily be carried from one room to another in a few seconds, handy for ironing, baking or preparing meals in hot weather.

Just the thing for Hotels and Restaurants. 12,000 of these stoves have been sold in the United States.

Single Stove.....\$6.00
Double Stove.....\$9.00
H. P. MARQUIS, Curran Street,
Chatham, June 24, 1881.

Law.

A. H. JOHNSON,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW,
Solicitor.

NOTARY PUBLIC, ETC., ETC.
Chatham, N. B.

E. P. Williston,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c.,
Office—Over Mr. John Brandon's Store; Entrance Side Door.

R. B. ADAMS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
NOTARY-PUBLIC, &c.
Office up stairs, Noonan's Building,
Water Street, Chatham.

WM. A. PARK,
Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor,
NOTARY PUBLIC, CONVEYANCER, &c.
OFFICE—OVER THE STORE OF W. PARK, Esq.
CASTLE STREET
NEWCASTLE, N. B.

THEOPH. S. DESBRISAY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
CONVEYANCER, &c., &c.
BATHURST, N. B.

LAW BLANKS
At the MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

The Comet of 1881.

JAMES C. FAIREY'S

DRY GOODS HOUSE FURNISHING STORE.

36 CASES AND BALES OF DRY GOODS, 200 PACKAGES OF FURNITURE,
Received for the Fall and winter Trade.

"Comet House," Newcastle Oct. 10, 1881.

Golden Ball, Shoe Store

AND
FURNITURE EMPORIUM.

The Golden Ball Shoe Store is the oldest established in Miramichi. It is now fifteen years since we commenced business exclusively in the above line, and we can now point with pleasure, to hosts of patrons, who have invariably purchased from us during that length of time. The reason is plain. We buy entirely from the best manufacturers, consequently our goods give satisfaction. We might purchase cheap, shoddy goods (that are only meant to sell and not to wear) but by pursuing that policy, it would be impossible to retain our customers. The best goods are the cheapest in the end.

We have full lines of
Infant's, Children's, Misses', Youth's, Boy's Women's and Men's
Boots, Shoes, Slippers, etc.,
at the lowest possible price compatible with good quality.

Also a large assortment of
Trunks, Valises, and Hand Bags, Sole Leather and Shoe Findings.

Seven years ago we opened our FURNITURE EMPORIUM, and have witnessed a steadily increasing business. We keep in stock all varieties of BEDROOM, KITCHEN AND PARLOR FURNITURE, LAMPS, SOFAS, HALL STANDS, WHITENOTS, WARDROBES, BOUQUET TABLES, SIDEBOARDS, EXTENSION TABLES, SPRING BEDS, IRON BEDFRAMES, STRETCHERS, ETC., &—ALSO—

Mattresses, Bolsters and Pillows of all kinds. Mirror Plates, Excelsior Etc.

—JUST ARRIVED—
A Few Splendid Parlor Suites, in Raw silk and in Hair Cloth.

Chatham, July 14th 1881. FOTHERINGHAM & CO

A. & R. LOGGIE,

BLACK BROOK,
Have received and are selling low, a large and well selected stock of

Staple and Fancy Dry Goods,
MEN'S YOUTH'S AND BOY'S READY-MADE CLOTHING.

WHITE, REGATTA, AND OXFORD SHIRTS, FANCY TIES, Etc.
FELT AND STRAW HATS,
also a full stock of

Boots, Shoes, Gaiters, etc.
Machine and Hand Made from best Canadian Manufacturers.

CROCKERY, GLASS, AND EARTHENWARE, SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE.

Nails, Spikes, Glass, Putty, etc. etc. Paints all colours, Boiled and Raw Paint Oils. A full line of all the best patterns of

COOKING, BOX AND PARLOUR STOVES. All kind of TINWARE. Also just received a lot of AMERICAN MANUFACTURE, 30 hour and 8 day, various styles and patterns, which will be sold cheap. A full stock of

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

—AT—
BLACK BROOK, June 27, '81. **A. & R. LOGGIE'S**

MIRAMICHI BOOKSTORE.

Bibles and Church Services
SELLING AT COST.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOKS,
IN VARIETY AT MODERATE PRICES.

INK STANDS! INK STANDS!
BUSINESS AND ORNAMENTAL, FROM 20s. to \$5.00

LADIES' CARD CASES.
STAFFORDS' MARKING INK, requires no preparation, any pen may be used,

STAFFORDS' CARMINE INK,
STAFFORDS' VIOLET INK.

CARTER'S and STEVENSON'S INK,
COMMON BLUE and RED INKS,
PENRACKS,

INDIA RUBBER BALLS,
from 12 to 35 cts.

ACCOUNT BOOKS,
MINUTE BOOKS,
MEMORANDUM BOOKS,
& GENERAL STATIONERY.

—AT—
Chatham, Aug. 26, 1881. **D. G. SMITH.**

MECHANICAL ORGUINETTE.

"THE ORGUINETTE" may now be called a celebrated instrument. In tone it is akin to the Cabinet Organ, but the organ must be manipulated by an artist in order to produce music; the ORGUINETTE is on the other hand entirely mechanical in its action, and at trifling expense it can be made to furnish an unlimited supply of all kinds of music.—"Toronto Globe."

"THE ORGUINETTE" is indeed a musical wonder. It is a miniature reed organ, with as strong harmonies in music can play it as well as the most accomplished professor. The ORGUINETTE is strong and accurate in its mechanism, and consequently not liable to get out of order."—"Montreal Gazette."

"THE ORGUINETTE" is the most perfect automatic musical instrument yet invented, its repertoire is unlimited, the tone is remarkably good."—"Montreal Star."

PRICES, \$10 TO \$16 Sent for Illustrated Catalogue to **W. F. ABBOT & Co.,**
1 TO 21 VOLTAIGERS STREET.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS AND PATENTEES,
MONTREAL.

Dressmaking.
MISS B. CLARK, begs to inform the ladies of Miramichi, that she is prepared to attend to any orders in the above line with which she may be favored.

Room up stairs, Mr. Thomas Kingstons n's, Water Street Chatham.

VELVET
Photograph Frames,
AT THE MIRAMICHI BOOK STORE.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

NEW GOODS!!

J.B. SNOWBALL'S.

Just received per late Steamers from the Manufacturers.

New Ulster Cloths,

For Gents Ladies and Children:

Boys' Woollen Knickerbocker Hose,

Very Heavy.

A very large stock of

German and Canadian Clouds and Promenade Scarfs.

Ladies' Berlin Wool Shawls,
Ladies Berlin Wool Jackets,
Ladies and Children's Wool Scarfs.

Irish Frieze,

For Heavy Overcoats.

Irish and Scotch Tweeds,

Newest Styles.

Moscow Homespun, Costume Cloths,
Wool Serges, French Cashmeres, French Merinoes,
Black Scicillians, Black Grecian Cords,
Colored Cloth Debeques,

100 pairs Best White
ENGLISH BLANKETS,

50 pairs Best Twilled

Canadian White Blankets

A few pairs of Super Extra BATH BLANKETS, at reduced price

ALL CHEAP FOR CASH!

Chatham, Oct. 18, 1881.

\$36,000.00 WORTH OF
FALL AND WINTER GOODS

TO BE SACRIFICED!!!

Sutherland & Creaghan, Newcastle.

Received ex "Nova Scotia" "Australia" and other Steamships from London, Manchester and Glasgow, Great Britain:

480 pieces Plain and Fancy WINCKLES,
50 dozen SHAWLS and MANTLES,
200 pieces RICH, STYLISH DRESS GOODS,
425 pairs GREY and WHITE BLANKETS and QUILTS,
150 dozen MEN'S and YOUTH'S FUR and FELT HATS and CAPS,
500 pieces GREY and WHITE COTTONS and SHEETINGS,
80 pieces GREY, WHITE, SCARLET and FANCY FLANNELS,
97 rolls RICH TAPESTRY and DUTCH CARPETS,
300 dozen Men's SHIRTS, DRAWERS, JUMPERS and OVERALLS,
148 suits MEN'S and YOUTH'S CLOTHING,
75 pieces TICKINGS, HESSIANS, TOWELLINGS and TABLES,
268 pieces RICH DARK FAST-COLORED PRINTS,
50 pieces COUNTRY HOMESPUN, also SOCKS and MITTS.

An endless variety of
TRIMMED HATS, MILLINERY, TRIMMINGS, FLOWERS, FEATHERS and ORNAMENTS.

Tremendous Assortment of