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SAMUEL WATTS, Editor and Proprietor.

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Poetry.

THE COUNTERSIGN.

BY FRANK G. WILLIAMS.

Alas! the weary hours pass slow,
The night is very dark and still,
And in the marshes far below
I hear the bearded whip-poor-will;
I scarce can see a yard ahead,
My ears are strained to catch each sound—
I hear the leaves about me shed,
And the springs bubbling 'round the ground.

Along the beaten path I pass,
Where white flags mark my sentry's track;
In formless shrubs I seem to trace
The footman's form, with bending back,
I think I see him crouching low—
I stop and list—I stoop and peer,
Until the neighboring hillsides grow
To groups of soldiers far and near.

With ready eyes I wait and watch,
Until my eyes familiar grow,
I detect each harmless carbon notch,
And turn glistening into stone;
And then amid the lonely gloom,
Beneath the tall old chestnut trees,
My silent marches I resume,
And think of other times than these.

"Halt! who goes there?" My challenge cry,
It rings along the watchful hill;
"Relief!" I hear a voice reply—
"Advance, and give the countersign."
With bayonet at the charge I wait—
The corporal gives the mystic word;
With arms a port I charge my mate,
Then onward pass, and all is well.

But in the tent that night awake,
I ask, if in the answer I fail,
Can't the mystic answer make
When the angelic sentries call?
And pray that Heaven may so ordain,
Where'er I go, what fate be mine,
Whether in pleasure or in pain,
I still may have the countersign.

Select Tale.

SMALL SAVINGS.

A STORY FOR THE TIMES.

"I don't see how Holmes does it," said John Stetson, with a puzzled expression.

"Does what?" asked his wife, looking up from her sewing.

"Why save so much money from his salary, to be sure."

"Then he does save, does he?"

"You know the half-acre lot adjoining his house?"

"Yes."

"Well, he has just bought it for a hundred dollars, and what is more, paid for it out of money saved from his salary this year."

"How does his salary compare with yours?"

"He has only seven hundred dollars a year, while I have eight. Then our families are the same—each of us have two children."

"Yet I am afraid that you don't save near that amount."

"No, I guess not. The fact is, if I find myself square at the end of the year, I think myself lucky."

"And yet, John," said his wife gravely, "it seems to me as if we ought to lay by something."

"It is easy enough to say that; but the question is, how are we going to do it? There's Mary's music lessons at ten dollars a quarter. That's the only way I can think of, and I shouldn't want to stop there."

"No, of course not; but isn't there any other way?"

"Not that I know of."

"Don't you think, John, the little incidental expenses cost more than you think for?"

"Such as what?"

"Cigars, ice-cream, oysters, the theater, and so on."

John Stetson winced a little.

"They are mere trifles," said he, carelessly. "A few cents each time. Pooh! they would make precious little difference at the end of the year."

"You know there's an old proverb—'Many a little makes a mickle.'"

"Pshaw! I hate proverbs. Besides these little things are really of very little account. A man doesn't feel the sum he pays out, and if it didn't go in one way it would in another."

"How many cigars do you smoke daily?" pursued his wife.

"Three."

"And how much do you pay for them?"

"Four cents apiece."

"That would make twelve cents."

"And what's twelve cents?"

"Not much in itself; but multiply by a larger number, it amounts to something."

"What are you driving at, wife?"

"I am going to make a proposition to you."

"I am all attention."

"You say you don't mind a few cents a day."

"Of course not."

"Then I propose that a small box be obtained, with a slit in the lid, just like the children's tin savings' boxes, in short, only larger; and that for every cent you spend for cigars, ice-cream, theaters, or any such luxury, you deposit an equal sum in the box."

John Stetson laughed.

"I dare say," he remarked, "it would bring me out a perfect Croesus at the end of the year."

"Do you agree?" asked his wife, with some appearance of anxiety.

"Yes, I have no great objection, if you desire it, though I acknowledge it seems a little foolish and childish."

"Never mind about that. I have your promise, and we'll try the experiment one year. If it doesn't amount to enough to make it an object, then it will be time to give it up."

"You must take all the trouble. I can't engage to do anything about it except to furnish the money when it's called for."

"That is all I shall require of you. But I shall expect you to give an account every night of all that you have disbursed in the ways I spoke of, and to be prepared with an equal amount of change for deposit."

"Very well, I'll try."

This conversation took place at the breakfast table. Having drained his second cup of coffee, John Stetson put on his overcoat and took his way to his place of business. I may as well mention in this connection that he was cashier of a bank, and as his duties occupied him only a few hours in the day

he was more likely from the leisure which he enjoyed, to indulge in small expenses.

"My wife is an enthusiast," thought he, "as he was walking down town. 'However, her hobby won't cost much, so I might as well indulge her in it.'"

"He stepped into a store and obtained his daily allowance of cigars."

Meanwhile Mrs. Stetson proceeded to the shop of a cabinet-maker.

"I want you," said she, "to make me a mahogany box, twelve inches long, the other dimensions being four inches each. In the center of the top is to be a slit, large enough to admit the largest silver coin."

"A money box," said the cabinet-maker.

"Yes."

"Pretty large for that, isn't it?"

"Rather," said Mrs. Stetson smiling; "but better too large than too small."

John Stetson fell in with a companion in the afternoon, with whom he had a social chat. As they were walking leisurely along, they passed an oyster saloon.

Stetson was particularly fond of the bivalves, and he proposed that they should go in and take some.

To this his friend did not demur, and they accordingly entered. Two plates of oysters came to twenty-five cents. Besides this, they took a glass of ale each, which made twelve cents more. This brought the bill up to thirty-seven cents, which Stetson paid. Accordingly, adding to this twelve cents for cigars, he deposited forty-nine cents in his wife's hand that evening.

"I might as well make it fifty," said he smiling.

"No," said she, "not a cent over. I want the savings to represent exactly what you spend on these little luxuries, and nothing more."

The next night he had nothing to deposit except the usual amount for cigars.

"It won't amount up very fast at this rate," said he, triumphantly.

"Never mind," said his wife; "I don't want you to increase your expenditures on my account. I am inclined to think that they will not be often as small as this."

She was right.

The next day, being Wednesday, John Stetson brought home a couple of tickets for the theater. It was a benefit night, and he was anxious that his wife should go.

"Certainly," said she, "I shall be glad to go but you remember our compact?"

"What?"

"How much did you pay for the tickets?"

"Fifty cents apiece."

"That will make a dollar. Please hand me that amount for your fund."

"Was the theater included?" said John a little reluctantly.

"Certainly. That was expressly mentioned."

"Oh, well, then so let it be. Here is a silver dollar."

The dollar was at once dropped into the box.

The next day in passing a shop window, Stetson noticed some fine oranges.

"Just what Mary and the children would like," thought he. "I'll go and inquire the price."

They were four cents apiece. He bought half a dozen at a cost of a quarter, which, with his cigar money, left him thirty-seven cents to deposit.

The succeeding day he spent nothing, except for cigars. On Saturday he stepped into a confectionary establishment with a friend, and had a lunch. This brought that day's account up to forty-cents.

When his wife added up the daily sums, she found, to her own surprise even, that she had received from her husband two dollars and sixty-two cents. He would have been astonished to hear it, but she thought it best not to say anything about it. He would have alleged that it was a special case, as they did not go to the theater every week. This was true; but then something else was sure to come of equivalent cost, such as a ride or a concert.

So time slipped away. The necessity, according to the compact, of giving his wife as much as he spent for incidental expenses, no doubt contributed to check him somewhat, so that probably he did not spend more than two-thirds as much in this way as he had done before the agreement. Still he kept up the average of the first week.

We will now suppose the year to have glided by. John Stetson came into the sitting-room with a preoccupied air.

"What are you thinking about?" asked his wife.

"About the half-acre lot adjoining the one Holmes bought last year."

"Do you wish to purchase it?"

"Yes, I should like to; but of course I can't, not having the money."

"How much do they ask for it?"

"Holmes paid a hundred dollars for his. This is on some accounts preferable, and they hold it at one hundred and twenty-five dollars."

"Perhaps you could raise the money, John," said his wife quietly.

"By borrowing. I shouldn't want to do that."

"You remember our fund?"

"Pshaw! That may possibly amount to thirty or forty dollars."

"Suppose we count it, as the year is up to-day."

"Very well."

The box was opened, and husband and wife commenced counting. They soon reached and passed forty dollars.

"Bless my soul!" said John Stetson, "I had no idea there was so much."

What was his astonishment when the total proved to be one hundred and twenty-nine dollars and forty cents!

"You see you can buy the lot."

"But haven't you swelled the amount from your allowance?" he asked, somewhat bewildered.

"Not a cent; and don't you see John, that if you had refrained from even half of the little expenses we spoke of, we might have had in the neighborhood of two hundred dollars?"

John Stetson did see it, and he determined that the lesson should be a serviceable one. The half-acre lot was bought, and now at the end of five years, it was worth double what he paid for it. He has also laid aside two hundred dollars a year during this period, and all by small savings.

Friendship, like phosphorus, shines most when all around is dark.

Education.

The following we take from a letter of correspondence addressed to the Hon. S. Tilley, in the *Presbyterian*. The importance of the subject and the manner in which it is handled, justifies us we think in thus occupying the space.

"Let it be premised that the power of the Government is legislative as well as executive. Under Responsible Government, at least, we always expect measures to be matured by the men in power, and carried through the House of Assembly. They are not only held responsible for enforcing the laws but for making them. They are sent to further the best interests of the people as well as protect their rights. For accomplishing this end they are expected to use the legislative power which a majority in the House of Assembly always place in their hands. Now, if it is in their power to make beneficial laws, and they refuse to do so, they are plainly chargeable with dereliction of duty. There are political sins of commission; and neglecting to use power for doing good vested in the rulers by the people, is certainly a sin of no small magnitude."

"Every subject which concerns the interests of the State is a fit subject for legislation. It is upon this ground that legislators deal with Education. They recognize their right to do so because education is of the first importance to the States as such. Now, if legislators have a right to deal with the subject at all, they have a right—may it, it is their duty—to deal with it in the best possible manner. 'Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well,' applicable to legislation as well as to other things. The physician who partly removes a disease from the body, when it was possible for him to eradicate it altogether, is either an ignoramus or a knave. It is too often the case that both these characters are employed by the people to lead the body politic. Of course those who employ them must suffer the consequences; but quack doctoring is often something too serious to be laughed at. Now, ignorance is the disease which dwells and prevents the development of our nation, and the statesman's duty is to remove it if he can. It is an uneducated people who looks up the agricultural, mineral, and commercial resources of our Province. The key to unlock the treasures of our country is general education. Every educated man is just so much clear gain to the State. I would tell the advocates of the emigration scheme that it is not merely men we want, but men of the right sort. Savage Hottentots would be to us a curse rather than a blessing. Bring them from the schools and colleges of Britain and every man is worth his weight in gold. But they are just as valuable from our own schools. We should use the material which we have at home, not waste it, and send elsewhere for more. But the converse of this is true. Every uneducated man in the country is a dead loss to the State. It is just so much capital unemployed and yielding no return—unless, which is too often the case, the return is more harmful than beneficial. The statesman, then, who neglects the education of the people, neglects the very source of a nation's wealth. Every man whom the Government, so called, neglects to educate, when it is in their power to do so, is a costly proof to the people either of their unwillingness or inability to rule well. The duty of Government is to educate not merely a majority, but all over whom its jurisdiction extends."

"Provincial funds, according to our present law, is a practical recognition that all should be educated if possible. But it is a notorious fact, not only that much of the money, as at present expended, is uselessly applied, but it is very far from adequately meeting the educational wants of the Province. It all are to be educated, the work must be performed in a different manner from that in which it is done at present. Other means must be used, if education is to be general. That is a fact which no one will dispute. The only question worth dispute is, Are those means within our reach? Can the Government, whose duty, in its legislative capacity, it is to look after the educational interests of the Province, employ more efficient means for making education more general? We think it can. Deliberately we say so. A consideration of the hundreds growing up in ignorance, makes this a momentous question for you and your colleagues."

"What the people expect, and what they have a right to expect, is a better education, more generally diffused. Now we know that the kind of education will depend very much upon the kind of teachers. Badly qualified teachers are no great blessing to any country. It is, then, the duty of Government to provide well qualified teachers. To accomplish this end, two things are necessary. 1st, the means of qualifying themselves should be put within the reach of teachers; and secondly, sufficient inducements should be held out to talented persons to qualify themselves for office. In plain language, there should be a properly equipped Training School, and teachers should have the prospect of a fair remuneration for their labour. On the last point I shall say nothing more just now; but in regard to the first, let me ask in all sincerity, Have we a Training School which deserves the name? Judged by our Provincial educational grants, we ought to have something of the kind at least respectable. To go no further. Where are our buildings? We know it is news to our townsmen to say they are here in St. John. But what kind are they? That is the question. Well, I have been to see. For the gentlemen, it is a dirty, crumbled up corner—not larger than a bed-room, in the basement story of a church! On the same story is the *Model School*! We speak neither of an unhealthy damp, nor disagreeable odour—for we suppose the folks who go there have constitutions invulnerable—we only mention the appearance. The Board of Education, through Inspectors and Superintendent, talks to the people of the country about pleasantly situated and well-aired school houses. I say, just visit the *Model School* of the Province, if you can find it, and see what an example is set! Practice, as well as preach, dear brethren. While you are in the *Model School*, just look in upon the male pupil Teachers, cooped up like hens in a crib, and see how they are learned to keep tidy, well-aired school houses. Compare this with the equipment for the same purpose in the neighboring Provinces, Canada and Nova Scotia, and let our Government blush. Our educational expenses are in proportion far greater than theirs; but our returns are less."

"The female department of our Training School has been, at the expense of Mr. Mills himself, I believe, rendered tolerably comfortable inside. Mr. Mills is, no doubt, well qualified for his work; but it is simply absurd to suppose he can carry on the work without proper equipments. He needs buildings, and a full staff of teachers. Our Government should see to this matter immediately. We might imitate with profit our sister Provinces. Our system at present is radically defective; for it does not provide sufficient facilities for giving the teachers anything like a competent knowledge of either the theory or practice of education. I would like to press this matter upon the attention of you and your colleagues, in order that it may be remedied speedily. This is the first step, and a necessary one, towards providing a good education for the people. In my next I shall speak of the means to be employed for its general diffusion."

I am yours, &c., BETA.

MESSRS. MASON AND SLIDELL.—These two gentlemen of distinction were on board the steamer *Nashville* which lately sailed at Bermuda, as Ministers from the Confederate States to the Courts of London and Paris. They are both men of great ability, thoroughly well informed, and the following brief sketches of them may be found interesting:

SKETCH OF JAMES M. MASON.
James M. Mason is a native of Virginia, and was born near Washington, November 3, 1798. He graduated in 1818 at the University of Pennsylvania and soon after commenced the study of the law at William and Mary's College. He was admitted to practice in 1820, after a short probation in the office of Benjamin Watkins Leigh, at Richmond. In 1825 his political career commenced with his election to the House of Delegates. Declining a re-election to this position he was chosen a member of the House of Representatives from the district composed of Frederick and Shenandoah counties, and in 1847 was elected by the Virginia Legislature to the United States Senate—a position to which he has been successively elected every term since, and was to hold till next year. On the breaking out of the present difficulties he took a prominent part in their development, and was chosen to the Confederate Congress from the Eighth district of Virginia. During his term of office in the United States Senate he was Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and was thoroughly posted on all matters connected with our foreign relations.

SKETCH OF JOHN SLIDELL.
John Slidell is a native of New York State, where he was born about the year 1793. Going to New Orleans "to seek his fortune," he was enabled with the education he had previously received to rise rapidly in his legal studies, and was admitted soon after. His first public position was that of United States District Attorney at New Orleans, to which position he was appointed by President (General) Jackson. He was elected frequently to the State Legislature, and while a Member of Congress was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Mexico, as a last means of averting the war which was on the point of breaking out with that country. His mission it is almost needless to say was fruitless. Senator Slidell was an ardent partizan of the American-union project for the absorption of the Spanish, Mexican and Indian races by the Anglo-Saxon, and partially for this reason was appointed by President Pierce United States minister to Central America. He subsequently succeeded Soule in the Senate when the latter was appointed by President Pierce Minister to Madrid, and held that position when Louisiana seceded. He was offered the ministership to Paris by Buchanan, but declined undoubtedly because he had plenty to do at home. He is now a member from Louisiana.

The unloved woman may have bread just as light, a house as tidy as the other, but the latter has a spring about her, a joyousness, an aggressive and penetrating brightness, to which the former is a stranger. The deep happiness at her heart shines out in her face. She is a ray of sunlight in the house. She gleams all over it. It is airy, and gay and graceful and warm, and welcoming with her presence. She is full of devices, and plots, and sweet surprises for her husband and family. She is never devoid with romance and poetry of life. She is herself a lyric poem, setting herself to all pure and graceful melodies. Humble household ways and duties have for her a golden significance. The prize makes the calling high, and the end dignifies the means. Her home is a paradise, not sinless, nor painless, but still a paradise; for "Love is Heaven, and Heaven is Love."

Irvin says the only temple of true liberty in this world is the bar-room of a country inn; an institution where you may pull off your formality with your boots, roll up your trousers with your cares, puff away at your troubles with a pipe, without any fear that a broom-stick will draw your attention to the carpet, or dark complexioned frowns remind you of the injurious effect of tobacco juice on the store hearth. The parlor will do for those who are brought up under despotism; but to a man who has once fed on democracy, there is no spot in the world where he can enlarge the area of freedom with less fear of raising an insurrection, than in the snug, cozy corner of a country bar-room.

A BIG LETTER.—A young lady of extraordinary capacity addressed the following letter to her cousin: Dear Cousin: The weather war we is air kold and I suppose war you is air kolder.

We is all well, and mother's got the his Terrix. brother Tom has got the Hoopin' Laugh and sister Susan has got a babe, and hope these lines will find you the same, Rite sane. Your affectionate Cousin.

A little girl was one night under the starry sky, intently meditating upon the glories of the heavens. At last, looking up to the sky, she said: "Father, I have been thinking that if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be?"

Keep out of debt—out of quarrels—out of law—out of politics—out of idleness—out of thin soled shoes—out of damp clothes—out of the reach of brandy and water—out of public office—out of matrimony, unless you are in love—and keep clear of the monstrous sin of cheating the printer out of his just dues!

The female department of our Training School

Items, Foreign & Local.

The Montreal *Miner* announces that several literary men of Paris are about to establish, ere long, a politico-scientific review, in which particular interest will be given to Canadian affairs.

The *Commercial Bulletin's* list of business changes in the United States gives 3 failures and suspensions in Boston, 8 in New York, 4 in Philadelphia, 1 in Cincinnati, and 18 in other places, a total of 37 for the week.

The Halifax *Journal* says that a lot of quartz (not picked) weighing a few cwt. less than 6 tons was crushed at Tangier recently with an *crasta*, and yielded £270 worth of gold, or £50 to the ton.

Nearly 4000 men are employed in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The new Governor General was insulted on the streets of Quebec the other day, by a drunken cabman.

The population of the Island of Jamaica, by the recent census is shown to consist of—346,364 blacks; 81,063 mixed, and 13,816 whites: total 441,244, or an increase of 63,000 in 17 years.

The Quebec *Chronicle* charges the U. S. authorities with stealing its checks, and stopping its correspondence.

An English colony has been settled on Mt. Ararat, and actually established a newspaper called the *Ararat Advertiser*. It ought to be called *The Dove*. The Piscataquis [Me.] *Observer* says that among some brigs brought from the Province by Mr. Judson Briggs, is one weighing 143 lbs., and only 6 months old.

Among the many expedients adopted by sutlers to sell contraband liquor to the soldiers one is exceedingly novel. They drop a couple of peaches into a bottle of whiskey, and sell the compound for "pickled peaches." A more irreverent expedient is to have a tin can made and painted like a hymn book, and labeled "The Bosom Companion."

A young man named Edward William Pullen, employed in the General Post Office, London, England, as a deliverer of letters, has been arrested for malversation of 1,500 letters. These letters contained large sums of money.

Another comet has been seen by the London astronomers. It appears fast approaching the earth, and will shortly be perceptible to the naked eye. The *Globe* says a prize fight for \$200 a side, between John Geary and John Turner, was to take place on Kenebecasis Island the 21st inst.

The popularity of the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon would seem to be on the wane. His late public lectures, if we may judge from the printed reports of them, do not seem of a character to enlarge the world's opinion of his good taste or talent.

The Church of Spain is prosecuting a grand crusade against spirit rappers—burning their books, &c., with all the pomp and ceremony of the priest-hood. This inquisitorial spirit does not seem to please the populace.

American papers say that President Lincoln has commenced preparing his annual message.

Dr. Henry T. Sears, son of John Sears, Esq., of St. John, N. B., has been the successful candidate among seven students who competed for the situation of one of the Assistant Surgeons for Blackwell Island Hospital, New York.

There are 192 civil cases on the Docket for trial at the present sitting of the Circuit Court in Saint John.

A young Hungarian noble, Count Victor de Guyon, third son of the eminent general of that name, has just committed suicide in Paris for reasons unknown. He was only 20 years of age.

News had reached England of sanguinary conflicts having again taken place in Palestine, between the Mussulmans and Greek Christians.

In order to prevent the Freemasons of France from electing Prince Napoleon their Grand Master, thus turning out Murat, upon which they had fully determined, the Emperor through the agency of the telegraph only two days before that fixed for the nomination, warned the Masters not to come to Paris—thus prohibiting the election until 1862.

The Italian clergy are to a great extent joining the party opposing the Temporal power of the Pope.

The number of free blacks in the United States is computed at 481,115.

The *Sneea Indian*, Deerfoot, recently in England ran 4 miles in 21 min. 2 sec. Henry Howard a famed pedestrian ran and walked, alternately, 100 miles in 19 hours.

500,000 sheep and 200,000,000 eggs it is estimated will have been imported into England by the close of the year.

Lord Palmerston is 77 years old.

A turnip has been exhibited in London which weighs 254 lbs.

The *Gleaner* says that on the 10th inst., a large whaleboat deeply laden with fish, bound inward, sunk near the Horse-shoe, and four persons—three males and a female were drowned. The boat was from Mexico.

The Canadian steamship line has been peculiarly unfortunate having lost during the past few years at least one steamer in each year. The *Indian*, the *Hungarian*, and the two *Canadians* have been lost on this line, and now the *North Briton* has followed their fate, although the wreck of the latter has proved a less serious disaster, as no lives are known to have been lost.

The cotton mills at St. John are ready for operation; deserving, no doubt Mr. Parks will receive general patronage as a reward for his enterprise.

The Montreal *Advertiser* says the ship *Conway*, from London, arrived at Quebec, on Monday, with 15,500 barrels of gunpowder and other military stores. The barque *Ealing Grove* arrived at the same port the previous day, with military stores. The steamer *Jura* also landed at Quebec a quantity of stores for the garrison.

The Roman Catholics of Miramichi recently presented Bishop Rogers with a handsome carriage and a pair of splendid horses, as a token of their esteem.

General News.

Since we published the letter of 'an Englishman' with reference to G. S. Hinton who so shamefully, libelled Mr. Brunswick in the London *Fruit*, we have received several communications respecting him, and heard much of his extraordinary history before he came to this Province. From the various communications, we select the following, which comes from a Clerk in one of the public Departments at Fredericton:—

November 6th, 1861.

To the Editor of the *Colonial Empire*, Sir.—I did intend to give you a history of G. S. Hinton, but I find by your last issue, that he is well known in St. John.

Some years since, I lodged in the same house with this worthy, and from my personal knowledge, have no compunction in stating that he was a worthless dissipated, lying, lying character. Wherever he is known