



## The Start

In married life is generally made on an equal footing of health in man and wife. But how soon, in many cases, the wife loses the start and fades in face and fails in flesh, while her husband grows even more rugged and robust.

There is one chief cause for this wife's failure and that is, the failure of the womanly health. When there is irregularity or an unhealthy drain, inflammation, ulceration or female weakness, the general health is soon impaired.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription cures womanly diseases. It establishes inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

"A little over a year ago I wrote to you for advice," says Mrs. Elizabeth J. Fisher, of Diana, W. Va. "You advised me to use Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and 'Golden Medical Discovery,' which I did, and with the most happy result. I was troubled with female weakness and bearing-down pains. Had a very bad pain nearly all the time in my left side, nervousness and headache. Was so weak I could hardly walk across my room. Could not sit up only just a little while at a time. My husband got me some of Dr. Pierce's medicine and I began its use. Before I had taken two bottles I was able to help do my work. I used three bottles in all and it cured me. Now I do all my housework. It is the best medicine I ever used."

The Common Sense Medical Adviser, in paper covers, is sent free on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps to pay expense of customs and mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

## "GOOD TIDINGS."

Therein is the deeper depths of Christmas, our great Christmas Festival: 'Tidings of a new beginning'; 'Time's great birth,' Earth's great hope, 'the Desire of all nations,' a 'Saviour who is Christ the Lord.'

"His reign of peace upon the earth began," a Feast of Life and Grace, and now a great Christian Festival of joy and peace.

Passing over the speculations of Historic Criticism; also, disencumbering 'Merry Christmas' of the wrappings of Pagan cult; likewise not staying to enquire if Pope Julius, in 337 A. D., was right in fixing Dec. 25th as the memorable day to be honored, deeper than all is this: What is the unchangeable doctrine and message of Christmas? and wherein lies the gladness? Is it not in brief: God's gracious response to human needs? Expressed in Byron's hymn of childhood and precious in later years:—

"Behold, bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth To you and all the nations upon earth: This day hath God fulfilled His promised word, This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

Saviour that's the Evangel, not some far off hope, or mystic thought, but a present now, a Divine Life shared, experienced by the sons of men, God's supreme gift and greatest grace.

The world's problems, trite as it may seem, are in one—Sin. 'Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.' Righteousness, rightness is a spirit, is a law, found in Saviour and Lord, 'centre and soul of every sphere,' possessed, ruled by redemption, deliverance, fruitfulness and peace.

Nitschi says: 'Since the being of God is spirit and will and, above all, love, it can therefore become effective in a human life, for human nature as such is laid on lines of spirit, will and love.' The 'good tidings' is the announcement of the needed spirit, will and above all of:—

"Love Divine all love excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down." Browning wisely asks: 'What if the all-great were the all-loving too?'

Yes! Incarnate Love! 'The great Love.' For 'the Word was made flesh.' 'Emanuel. God with us.'

Here we strike the deep roots of 'the tree of life, with its manifold, outspreading branches, its 'twelve manner of priests,' and 'the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.'

A Christmas tree indeed! The Gift of all gifts, the Joy of all joys. 'Immortal amaranth, the tree that grows Fast by the throne of God.'

Beneath the ample boughs, youth, manhood and old age find shade, shelter and support.

'And ye beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow— Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing!'

The Puritans of old appointed a fast and made Christmastide 'sackcloth and ashes.' Made life's grey flies greyer, shut out the fair streaks of blue. Christopher North ends his 'Christmas Dreams' with a mournful 'dirge.'

True, a cloud is ever on the edge of the 'blue sky,' but Christmastide

calls us to what? a fast of hate and strife; a feast of peace and good will; a festival of joy and charity; a thanksgiving of gratitude and praise; a view of Eternal Grace, that heart and mind may be purified, exalted, by the benign, the blessed influences of the angels' song; and a world gather celestial fruit from 'the tree of life,' beholding the face of God in the joy and beauty of the Christmas spirit:

'For Love's greatest dower is Love.' Port Medway. S.

## VENEZUELA THE LAND OF TROUBLE.

It is interesting to know that that much talked of little South American republic which, with a population about equal to that of the province of Ontario, has ventured, to provoke the wrath of both Great Britain and Germany at once, has other claims to notoriety besides its audacity and its revolutions.

The shores of Venezuela were the first part of the mainland of America to loom upon the vision of Columbus, when that adventurous gentleman discovered the Western Hemisphere. Its capital Caracas was the birthplace of Bolivar, the liberator of South America, and within its boundaries gathered that wave of freedom which was destined to sweep the Spaniard from the Western continent.

Besides this it contains some of the richest gold fields in the world.

Venezuela, whose name means 'little Venice,' and is a modification of the name Venecia, originally bestowed by Alonso de Ojeda in 1499 on an Indian village built on piles on the shores of the Gulf of Maracaibo, which was called by him the Gulf of Venicia, claims an area of 632,897 square miles, although not more than 500,000 square miles of this are actually under Venezuelan administration.

The climate and vegetation are such as might be expected from the tropical situation of the country. But Venezuela, as well as the rest of tropical South America east of the Andes, is directly exposed to the trade winds. The temperature is thereby considerably moderated, and no such extremes of heat are to be met with as are experienced in the corresponding latitudes of Northern Africa.

Coral banks abound on the coast. And the lower slopes of all the mountains are clad with the richest tropical vegetation, including the wonderful 'cow tree,' whose stem 40 feet in height carries erect on its crown, leaves 40 feet in length with a breadth of 8 feet.

The mouths of the Orinoco and many parts of the coast are rendered unhealthy by mangrove swamps, which are partly to blame for the yearly recurrence of yellow fever in many of the coast towns. From these swamps, however, La Guaira is free and there the yellow fever is not a regular visitant.

The two chief crops grown for food are manioc and maize, the latter being generally ground coarse and baked into a kind of cakes called arepas, which are eaten hot, like the Mexican tortillas. Among other vegetable products which take an important place on the Venezuelan bill of fare, are all kinds of tropical fruits, including several kinds of melons and pumpkins, sweet potatoes, various beans and a species of hemlock, which is eaten like celery.

The principal exports are coffee and cocoa, after which come tobacco and cotton. Venezuela holds the fifth place among the coffee exporting countries of the world, with an acreage of something like 365,000 devoted to this particular product. A large area of land is also devoted to grazing purposes where cattle, sheep, goats, horses and mules are raised.

Gold, copper, phosphates and coal all abound in the country. The gold harvest of Venezuela amounts to about \$4,000,000 per year. Its gold fields are among the most promising in the world, but the frontier disputes between Great Britain and Venezuela interfere with the investment of capital for the development of some of the choicest portions of them to which both Governments lay claim.

There are a few cotton weaving factories in the towns, but the manufacturing industries most extensively pursued are the making of shoes and imitation Panama hats.

The population of the country in 1886 was 2,198,320, that of Caracas, the capital, being about 71,000.

The constitution is modelled to some extent on that of the United States, a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies being elected by the people. The Chamber of Deputies elects a federal council, and the federal council elects the President.

The coast of Venezuela was the first part of the American mainland sighted by Columbus, who, during his third voyage in 1498, entered the Gulf of Paria and sailed along the coast of the delta of the Orinoco.

In the following year a much greater extent of coast was traced out by Alonso de Ojeda, who was accompanied by the more celebrated Amerigo Vesputi. In 1550 the territory

## Itching Skin

Distress by day and night— That's the complaint of those who are so unfortunate as to be afflicted with Eczema or Salt Rheum—and outward applications do not cure. They can't.

The source of the trouble is in the blood—make that pure and this scaling, burning, itching skin disease will disappear.

"I was taken with an itching on my arms which proved very disagreeable. I concluded it was salt rheum and bought a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla. In two days after I began taking it I felt better and it was not long before I was cured. Have never had any skin disease since." Man. Ida E. WARD, Cove Point, Md.

## Hood's Sarsaparilla

this the blood of all impurities and cures all eruptions.

was erected into the captain-generalship of Caracas.

It remained under Spanish rule until the year 1810, when Venezuela rose against the Spanish yoke, and on the 14th of July in the following year the independence of the country was proclaimed. A war ensued which lasted for ten years under the able and spirited leadership of the patriotic Bolivar, a native of Caracas. It was not, however, until March 30th, 1855, that the independence of the Republic was recognized in the treaty of Madrid.

Hon. Tarte on Hon. Fielding.

Hon. Mr. Tarte published in *La Patrie* last night an interesting editorial article anent the speech delivered by Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, at the banquet tendered him at Halifax on Thursday evening.

Having explained the role played by Hon. Mr. Fielding in the provincial politics of Nova Scotia, *La Patrie* says:

"During the investigation which preceded the tariff revision, Mr. Fielding did his best to direct the proceedings in such a manner as to cause the triumph of his favorite theory—the lowering of the tariff."

"The facts brought to his knowledge and to that of his colleagues, were such as to conduce to the mitigated policy or to the compromise which took place and which still exists."

"Mr. Fielding put a great deal of good will and fairness into the preparation of the present tariff."

"The preparation of the tariff is not the work of Hon. Mr. Fielding alone."

"It is the collective work of all those who, in a government, are able to participate intelligently in this difficult work."

"Public opinion will never consent to the placing in the hands of one man the financial destinies of a country."

"The ridiculous doctrine that the Minister of Finance has the exclusive right to busy himself with the fiscal policy of the country was the pretext used by a good portion of the Liberal press in the recent campaign which took place around the name of Hon. Mr. Tarte."

"Mr. Fielding represents a province whose industrial enterprises are so far, very little developed. He is, therefore, in need of his colleagues' knowledge to aid him to reach conclusions that will tend to the protection of the great industries of the country."

"He was chosen as Minister of Finance not because he was a protectionist, but because he was less compromised, and because he had taken a less accentuated position than had Sir Richard Cartwright in the Federal arena."

"The Liberal party in the Maritime Provinces in the House of Commons is in a great majority in favor of a lower tariff."

"Strange to say, however, the Liberal party in the provincial arena is in favor of protection."

"It is, therefore, protection that will definitely triumph in Nova Scotia and in New Brunswick, as in the rest of the country."

"Hon. Mr. Fielding is an excellent parliamentarian, and a gentleman of agreeable manners, and no one doubts his honesty. He is designated in ministerial circles as the successor of Sir Wilfrid Laurier if, which may it please God to avert, the Prime Minister becomes unable to lead the party, of which he is now the head."

## BRIGAND'S STRANGE DEATH.

Recently a young peasant woman of Montenegro was returning to her home at Cetinje from a town in which she had just sold some poultry, when suddenly she met a young man who told her that there was a much shorter way to her home, and that he would show it to her, if she was willing.

Though he was a stranger to her, the woman saw no reason to distrust him and gladly accepted his offer.

He preceded her up the mountain path and in about ten minutes they came to the edge of a precipice. Thereupon the man suddenly seized

her, and pointing a dagger at her throat, demanded her money and her clothes. She was obliged to obey him and then was preparing to run away, when he stopped her.

"No, no," he said with a laugh, "you have got to jump down from this precipice."

Falling on her knees, she implored him to spare her life, but he paid no heed to her and finally threatened that if she did not jump of her own accord he would throw her over.

"All right," she said, "but at any rate allow me to cover my eyes with a handkerchief. You will find one in the pocket of my dress. Please hand it to me."

The brigand stooped to get the handkerchief, and the woman, summoning all her strength, pushed him over the precipice. As he fell he grasped a rock near the edge and thus succeeded in supporting himself. But it was not for long, for the woman kicked his hand away from the rock and down he fell to the doom he deserved so well.

Returning to Cetinje, the woman told the story that evening to Prince Charles and soldiers were sent to the scene, who found at the foot of the precipice not only the body of the brigand, but also two other corpses, which were evidently the remains of two of his victims.

## RECOMMENDED BY PHYSICIANS.

## Pond's Extract

Over fifty years a household remedy for Burns, Sprains, Wounds, Bruises, Coughs, Colds and all accidents liable to occur in every home.

CAUTION—There is only one Pond's Extract. Be sure you get the genuine, sold only in sealed bottles in buff wrappers.

## NEW ONTARIO.

Toronto, Dec. 12.—An Evening Telegram's special London cable says: Mr. W. T. R. Preston, Canadian emigration commissioner in London, said to-day that an English syndicate is being formed with a view to securing from the Ontario Legislature a concession of two million acres of land in New Ontario at a dollar an acre, in consideration of fifty thousand settlers being placed on the land within three years.

Toronto, Dec. 12.—The announcement that a syndicate of English capitalists was about to make a proposition to the Ontario Government to purchase a million acres of land in New Ontario for the purpose of settling fifty thousand people was news to the officials at the Parliament buildings. No such intimation had reached the Crown Lands Department, where matters of this kind are arranged before being presented to the Cabinet for endorsement. Since the Egan-Utt contract was made, however, a grist of applications from promoters and land speculators from all over have been received. They were all on a comparatively small scale, but evidently meant business and were prepared to carry out the terms of their propositions. None of them have been seriously considered, but the English syndicate will at least be assured of fair hearing.

## DR. A. W. CHASE'S 25c. CATARRH CURE ...

Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—The prohibition vote of 1894 has been exceeded by returns received to-day, which makes the prohibition vote, 182,425; liquor vote, 94,272. Prohibition majority, 88,353, with five constituencies to hear from.

The British parliament was prorogued Thursday. The King's speech made reference to the Venezuela affair and to South Africa.

## The Cause of Woman's Ills

In almost every case where woman suffers from ill's peculiarly feminine the cause is to be found in a weakened and exhausted condition of the system. The nerves are depleted and the blood thin and watery. If medicines have failed to cure, it is because the wrong treatment has been used.

Mrs. Henry Clark, Port Hope, Ont., states:—"I have used seven boxes of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for nervousness and a completely run down system, and can heartily recommend it as a wonderfully effective treatment. Before using this remedy I had been in very poor health for some months. I seemed to have no energy or ambition, felt tired and listless most of the time, and could scarcely drag myself about the house. I was weak, irritable and nervous, could not sleep well, and felt discouraged about my health. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food has taken away these symptoms and given back my usual health and vigor, consequently I endorse it fully."

50 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edman, Bates & Co., Toronto.

## Dr. Chase's Nerve Food



In South America and Australia pasture is abundant and oxen of the finest quality are plentiful. Bovril is prepared from these oxen and the supply is so considerable as to enable the manufacturers to use the best materials at a nominal cost. It is prepared by a special process, which ensures the retention of both the stimulating and nourishing properties of the beef, thereby differing from ordinary meat extracts or beef tea, which merely stimulate without nourishing.

## Bovril Nourishes and Strengthens



## SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF

Is the hang and style of the Coat, as well as the exquisite workmanship, cut and fit that is given by NICHOLSON. Our PRINCE ALBERT, CUT-AWAY and SACK SUITS for either dress or business occasions are the acme of Style and Elegance, and the materials are chosen from the best varieties of the season.

## W.B. NICHOLSON Merchant Tailor.

## THE ROYAL GRANDE RANGE, With Oven Door Thermometer.



The Greatest Wood Range ever manufactured. A Great Baker and Wood Saver. It is unusually large, with Large Top Surface, Large Fire Box, as well as a Large Oven. It has the capacity for a large family, yet can be used economically for a small one.

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For sale at our Stores—Woodstock and Centerville. Write for Circulars.

## W.F. Dibblee & Son.

## B. & I.



## B. & I. Patent Bias Filled Corsets.

They are Perfection, the Ladies say so.

They are the Newest Idea in Corset Construction.

Style G. Short hip, Medium Figure, Straight Front.

There is only one Bias Filled Corset, and that is "THE B & I."

All up-to-date Merchants now have B. & I. Corsets in stock in all shapes. If you have any difficulty in securing B. & I. Corsets, write direct to our Factory, 489 and 489 1/2 Queen Street W., Toronto.—42.