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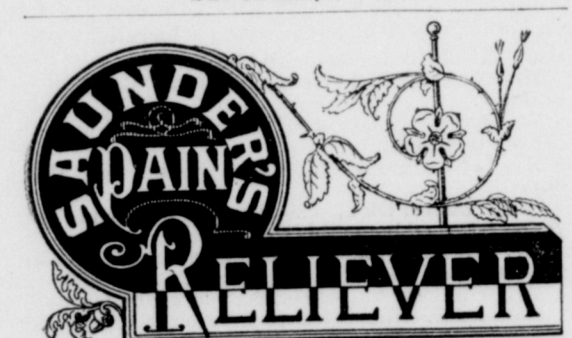
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Shoulder Braces,
IN ALL THE MOST IMPROVED
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"ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.]

Thank you, "Anti-Prude." The way in which you took up the cudgels in my behalf, did my heart good! Do you know that when you tell me you read my column, you pay me a great compliment? For men very seldom care to read a column devoted to woman's chat, in which they fancy they will only find gossip and dress, and beaux. And yet I often get letters from men, containing kind words for my special department, which give me a great deal of encouragement, and nerve me on to make it readable for both sexes alike, and I also try to give the girls who come to me for counsel, advice which they will be likely to follow, for I know quite well that when you draw the

wear some light fluffy material such as white lace. 3. Read Francis Hodgson Burnett's novels, and I have a great weakness for Helen B. Mathers—especially her lovely story, *Comin' Thro' the Rye*. Mary Cecil Hay is another favorite of mine; but for real solid enjoyment, and at the same time instruction, you should read Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* and *Book of Snobs*. Lever's *Charles O'Malley* and *Harry Lorrequer*—over which I have laughed myself weary, and any and all of Dickens' works. I think "The Duchess" novels extremely silly; her first were good, but she seems to have written herself out. I think it quite impossible that you can have seen my picture, it has never been on exhibition anywhere I know of, so you must be mistaken. When I give my reception, you may count upon an invitation.

towards a woman who trusts him with her company unless he feels that he is encouraged. Be yourselves ladylike in the best sense of the word and you will not be misunderstood. Treat your lover as if you believed him a man of honor and a gentleman and he will assuredly be so. If you do this you need concern yourselves but little in regard to rules of etiquette whose utter failure to accomplish their object in those countries in which they are most rigidly enjoined, give a sure presage of their failure here. I speak from a masculine standpoint, but I would like to hear from the ladies themselves. Where is the girl that dares to stand up for the rights of Canadian women to observe Canadian customs?

My dear Heliocentric: When I first read your very remarkable communication, I was forced to the unwilling conclusion that you had merely written your letter upon "hearsay evidence," and without having read my answer to "S. F. R.," else you would certainly have known that I distinctly disagreed both with that lady and Rose Terry Cooke, in fact that so far from endorsing their sentiments I worked myself



HIS GRANDFATHER'S WATCH.

rein too tight the horse is certain to do one or two things: he either stops short, or he runs away. Even so with young people; they like amusement, and now is their time to take it, and I believe it is better for the sexes to take their pleasure together, than apart, for I do not believe anything but good ever resulted from the association of a good woman with a good man, each sex has a salutary influence upon the other. The woman's society tends to refine and soften the man's nature, while the man's usually more thoughtful nature, and wider knowledge of the world and its ways, tends to broaden the woman's views, for we most of us are condemned to live such woefully narrow lives! Thank you, once more, "Anti-Prude," and au revoir.

APRIL SHOWER, St. John.—Forgive me for mentioning it my dear girl, but you really must stamp your letter when you write to me. Yours cost the office two cents which, we had to pay before we could get it, and you know such reckless extravagance would soon swamp the office, if we indulged in it frequently. You have certainly made the best guess at my personal appearance of any of my correspondents. I am English, rather tall, and as independent as a midshipman on half pay, but I am neither lovely, nor very dark, just "a fair brunette," as some one obligingly describes the girls who are neither one thing nor the other. (1) I do not see any harm in a church member dancing, if it is wrong for a member of the church it is wrong for us all. Go to the ball by all means, if you want to so much, although I fear my advice will reach you too late to be of much service. (2) I should think he had a very decided liking for me indeed. (3) What a ridiculous question! as if we were to choose our husbands as we do our bonnets—to match our complexions. Marry the man you like best, and who is the best fellow, be he dark or fair, tall or short. (4) Your writing is very pretty, but a little difficult to read. You have expressed yourself quite correctly, but I have not the faintest idea of your age. (5) No! you had much better not go for a walk at that hour, though I don't say it is not quite permissible to take "the longest way round" on a summer's evening.

VIXEN, St. John.—You are the second Vixen I have had on my list. I wonder if you are both the same? Your writing looks very much alike! 1. Custom seems to have fixed eighteen as the proper age for a young girl to make her entrance into society, but it is frequently deferred till nineteen, or even twenty. 2. She should wear a dress of pure white or cream color, without any bright color, even her flowers should be white, and if possible she should

MARIGOLD, Moncton.—Read the answer to vixen above, for requisite information as to the proper age for a girl to come out, and the style of dress for her to wear. One thing let me impress upon you, though; put it off as long as you possibly can, for somehow people invariably count a girl's age from the time she makes her first entrance into society, and they usually place her age at that time at 20. The unfortunate writer was a big girl when she was young, and was allowed to go to a full dress party when she was fourteen, in consequence of which breach of etiquette her affectionate friends have ever since persisted in adding a good ten years to her already considerable age. So take warning, my child, from one who has trodden a thorny path herself, and postpone your debut as long as you can, for you will find it to your lasting interest.

MAUDE, St. John.—I really meant every word I said. Never mind whether I have experienced it all myself or not. You probably will some day, and then you must be a law unto yourself, for no one else can judge for you.

SOMEBODY—and I cannot remember who it was—asked me the meaning of the phrase to "dree your wiewd." Well, it is an old Scotch saying, "ilker heart maun dree its wiewd alane," and means that we must each one of us have some trouble which we must bear all by ourselves. "Dree your wiewd" means bear your sorrow. So, will whoever asked me about it, take this answer without "further notice?"

CHATHAM, N. B., April 16.
EDITOR PROGRESS.—Is it permissible for one of that sex whose inferiority, intellectually, morally and physically, is now so generally conceded, to address the fair Minerva, from whom week to week guides and counsels the budding womanhood of our land through the pages of your invaluable paper? If so, I would respectfully ask the fair Astra if her advice to the young women of Canada to accept the dictum of a lady reared amid circumstances entirely dissimilar to those in which the daughters of happy Canada are placed, is given in serious earnest? If it should appear desirable from a feminine point of view that a young woman should treat the man who seeks to win her love as a convict—that she should refuse to walk, drive or sail alone with him—it is equally desirable that the subject should be viewed from the standpoint of the unfortunate young man. Would any young man possessed of ordinary self-respect submit to be treated in this manner? I think not. Let us apply to this matter the rules that relate to other relations of life. What would we think of one who was considering the advisability of a partnership formed under such conditions. And why should the principles that govern ordinary cases be inapplicable to matrimonial partnerships? It is a well-known fact should countries where the rules of propriety endorsed by Astra and her friend are most rigidly enforced the state of morality is very low, while in Ireland, Australia and Canada where little or no attention is paid to such unnatural restrictions the state of morality and mutual respect of the sexes are the highest in the world.

Believe me, dear girl, no man who is not under the influence of liquor will behave improperly

up to such a flight of eloquence on the subject of Canadian truth, honor and virtue, as exemplified in the morals of Canada's sons and daughters, that I called forth a letter full of warmest commendation and gratitude from a clever young Canadian lawyer who was kind enough to endorse my views in every respect, which letter I published last Saturday. I scarcely think you can be aware of the fact that it is customary to have a witness, when two people decide to enter into a business partnership, or you would not have used that argument. You ask where is the girl who dares to stand up for the rights of Canadian women, to observe Canadian customs? Well, for the second time she is right here. I stood up for them the week before last, and now I am ready to say once more: "Well, stranger, sooner than see the play stop, I'll be the wolves myself."

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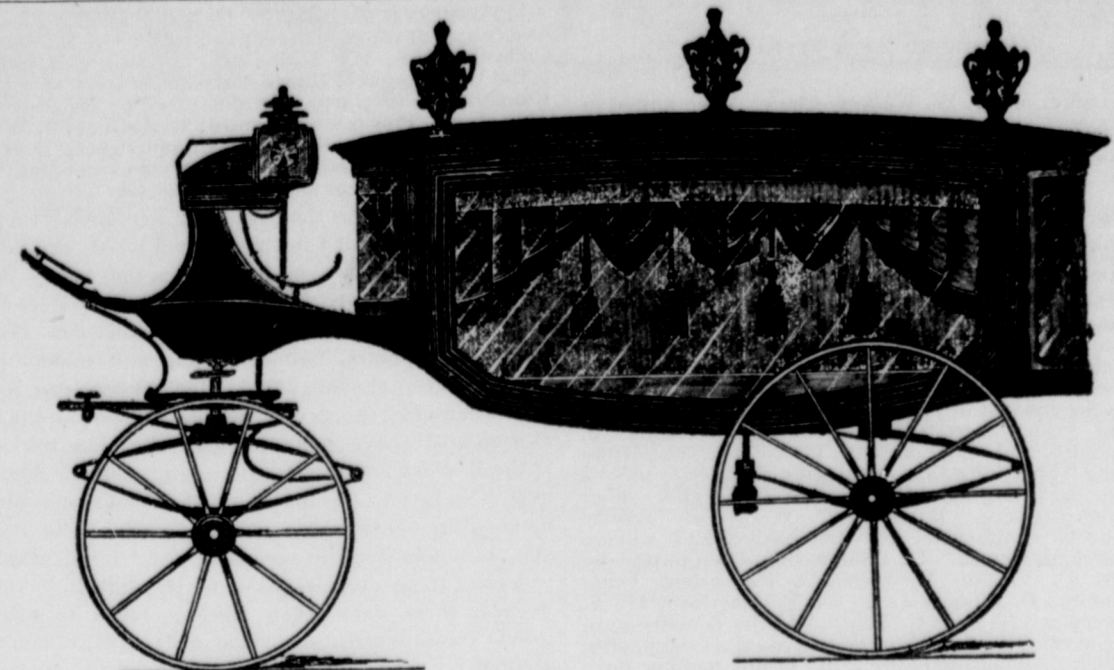
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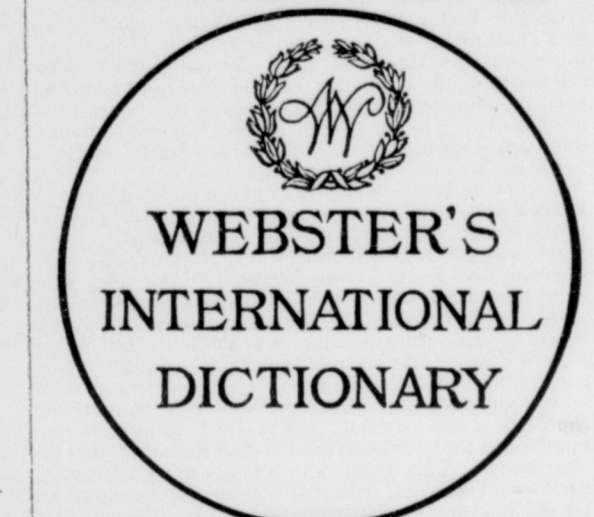
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In case of a tie the first sender will be entitled to the prize. Send your list in early. Write only on one side of the paper upon which you send your list. Webster's Unabridged Dictionary will govern the contest. Address, CROCKETT & MACHUM, Proprietors "Fredericton Globe," Fredericton, N. B. P. O. Box, 315.

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ASSESSORS' NOTICE.

THE Board of Assessors of Taxes for the City of St. John, in the present year, hereby require all persons liable to be rated, forthwith to furnish to the Assessors.

True Statements of all their Real Estate, Personal Estate and Income.

and hereby give notice that Blank Forms, on which statements may be furnished under the City Assessment Law, can be obtained at the office of the Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath, and filed in the office of the Assessors within THIRTY DAYS from the date of this notice.

Dated this first day of April, A. D. 1891.
WM. F. BUNTING, Chairman, Assessors of Taxes.
JOHN WILSON,
URIAH DRAKE,
RICH'D FARMER,

Extracts from "The Saint John City Assessment Law, 1889."

SEC. 118.—"The Assessors shall ascertain, as nearly as possible, the particulars of the real estate, the personal estate, and the income of any person who has not brought in a statement in accordance with their notice and as required by this law, and shall make an estimate thereof, at the true value, and amount, to the best of their information and belief, and such estimate shall be conclusive upon all persons who have not filed their statements in due time, unless they can show a reasonable excuse for the omission."

SEC. 128.—"No person shall have an abatement unless he has filed with the Assessors the statement, under oath, within the time hereinbefore required; nor shall the Common Council in any such case sustain an appeal from the judgment of the Assessors, unless they shall be satisfied that there was good cause why the statement was not filed in due time, as herein provided."

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