

## A VERY RIPE RASCAL.

A PLAUSIBLE GENTLEMAN WITH SEVERAL NEAT TRICKS.

He Succeeds to a Certain Extent in Imposing Upon "Progress"—Followed and Arrested in Chatham—His Fairy Tales in Amherst and Sharp Tricks in Truro.

It was a little more than two months ago when Eugene V. Harrington first became acquainted with PROGRESS. He came in with the newsboys bright and early one Saturday morning and introduced himself.

He looked as honest as the brightest newsboy in the lot, and that is saying much for his appearance; his introduction was perfect in its fashion and his address would have attracted the attention of anyone.

Like everyone else, Mr. Harrington was given a courteous reception, and when he explained that he was in the same line of business, out of employment and in a strange city, the first thought that suggested itself was: have we anything we can give him to do.

Mr. Harrington was willing to do anything. He explained that he had worked over the greater part of the Eastern and Middle States of the union canvassing for a publishing house, and he was in a position to do any work in that line. He explained further that he was located in Sussex, where his wife was also, and he would have to remain there until he secured some kind of a situation. The best of references would, of course, be forthcoming—at that moment they were in his valise.

While admitting the passing strangeness that a person should hunt for a situation without his references, PROGRESS told Mr. Harrington that if he called at 3 o'clock that afternoon he would know if anything could be found for him to do.

He was punctual. Trinity had hardly chimed three when he appeared. His letters of reference were forthcoming this time, and not only them, but much other evidence of his reliability. The proofs he had canvassed with, the illustrated books he had worked up, and a score of such points were produced. They were all satisfactory and Mr. Harrington was engaged on commission on his own terms which were modest enough.

PROGRESS' first field for him was Amherst, and he went there with complete instructions to write up and illustrate the town and the places of business of the merchants. His instructions were very explicit and complete. The Amherst edition was to be run on the same lines as those previously issued of St. Stephen, St. John and Fredericton.

That, however, did not suit the ideas of Mr. Harrington, and in a short time the people of Amherst were listening to a wonderful tale, or a dozen different tales, of the illustrated book PROGRESS was about to issue in Amherst. The story was made to suit the man and secure his contract. That was the main idea. He knew that when the contract was forwarded and signed in proper form that he would secure his commission. He therefore bent all his energies to inventing stories of what the mammoth 60 or 100 page book, with illuminated cover, was to be like.

According to him the issue would sell for as high as 35 cents per copy, but orders would be taken for cash for as low as three and a half cents!

Cash was a very potent word with Mr. Harrington. He would do anything for cash. His smooth and pleasant ways, good address and offhand manner helped him along wonderfully. Perhaps the fact that he sported a silken tie and a cane had something to do with his success. Amherst people say now that the name of the paper carried him and he got what he wanted.

He wanted a good deal in a personal way. In one place it was a suit of clothes, in another it was jewelry, in many others it was cash. Anything and everything was his motto.

In the meantime PROGRESS imagined the edition was going on in the ordinary way and heard nothing to the contrary. Letters were received frequently from Mr. Harrington saying that instructions were being carried out to the letter, and the views of the town and portraits came forward in due course. They were engraved in a more costly way than usual and the letter-press was put in hand.

Unusual precautions were taken to see that everything was satisfactory. Harrington had hardly begun work before another representative of PROGRESS, regularly stationed at Halifax, was ordered there to see what he was doing. The report came back that everything was all right, and so it was then—the particular and fine work came later.

The letter press mentioned above when first received by PROGRESS was returned to him with instructions to let every man read what was said about himself or his business and "O. K." it. They all came back marked in that fashion and with very few changes. Since the edition was published, a number of those same merchants have written to say that they never saw the copy at all.

Meantime, having finished Amherst ap-

parently in a satisfactory way, Harrington was ordered to Truro. That was about a fortnight before the Amherst edition was to be published. That was long enough for him to become well acquainted with many of the people and do the paper injury. Since his last job, however, according to his own story, he had been promoted. He was, in Truro, a "managing director" and "assistant editor" of PROGRESS. What he said was law and was bound to be done. He then started out to do business. That appeared to be easy enough in that town. Most of those he approached were friends of PROGRESS and glad to welcome any representative of it. The contracts came forward for amounts that were surprising in one or two instances, and Harrington's commission bid fair to be a nice thing for him. When the Amherst edition appeared he knew his game would be up, and so on Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23, he made the rounds. He went into this and that store hurriedly with a roll of bills in his hand and said he just wanted \$5.13 to make up the express charge on a C. O. D. parcel of electros, promising to pay it back Tuesday just as soon as the bank opened and he could make a sight draft on the publisher. In this way he succeeded in capturing some \$40 or \$50. More than that, he obtained a valuable ring and some cash from outsiders beside several weeks board from his hotel.

When Tuesday came Harrington had vanished. He jumped on board the express train as it moved from the station, having sent his wife before him to Chatham. Many of those he had borrowed money from saw him jump on the train, but supposing that he was going to Amherst thought nothing of it. A few hours later they received intimation from PROGRESS to pay nothing to Mr. Harrington unless he presented a special authority to collect. It was too late, the mischief was done and their eyes opened.

Good friends of PROGRESS in Amherst had written stating several facts about Harrington's fancy tales in that town. The warning came too late for Amherst, but the Truro people were notified at once and a representative of the paper started for that town to intercept the ingenious canvasser. He was too late, but the next train took him in pursuit to the North Shore. Arriving in Chatham, he found that his game was handy. With the help of the police magistrate and a policeman Harrington was soon behind the bars.

But he had nothing to speak of, except the ring he had secured from the Truro jeweler and a small amount in cash. The ring he handed over to his lawyer to be returned to Truro, and the cash, which was only a small part of his collections in Amherst and Truro, he handed over to PROGRESS.

Some of his offences were of a most serious character, but unfortunately the witnesses were in Truro and the prisoner in Chatham. Other circumstances of a family nature prompted all the leniency that could possibly be shown the fellow, who broke down utterly when confronted with the evidences of his rascality, and filled the air with promises.

PROGRESS does not propose to go beyond the facts of its own case. There are many other things connected with his brief tour in these provinces that would make interesting reading. When he claimed to be in Sussex he was in St. John, sending postal cards to have his matter re-addressed to where he was. His mania for skipping out and neglecting to reward his boarding house was with him in St. John, and seemed to follow him to Truro.

This story simply goes to show how a smooth and plausible rascal can fortify himself with forged references and impose on any concern. The fact that he succeeded in imposing upon PROGRESS and its patrons to a certain degree is a greater reason why the particulars should appear in these columns. It will explain much to our Amherst and Truro friends who need hardly be assured that PROGRESS does not propose that any one of them from whom he obtained advances on the strength of being its representative shall lose anything by complying with his request. It may also serve as a warning to merchants who are too ready to pay a canvasser in advance or give advances and goods on the strength of a contract. No reputable agent makes any such requests.

### Quick Freight Handling.

PROGRESS had occasion to speak once before of the quick transport over the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial railways from Western Ontario. Some time ago an order for a car load of paper was sent forward to a town west of Toronto. There was a rush at the mills. The paper was due in this city Saturday, May 30, and Saturday, May 23, the paper was still in the machine. But not long, for exactly five days later, including Sunday, the carload arrived in St. John. That is pretty quick work.

Umbrellas Repaired. Duval, 242 Union street.

## HOW THE POLICE DO IT.

A MONEY-MAKING INSTITUTION ON KING STREET EAST.

Unfortunate Citizens the Victims of Policemen's Zeal for Recognition—An Increase in Revenue the Only Aim of the Police Department.

The police court is a paying institution these days. As a source of revenue the ferry cannot hold a candle to it. The large amount of business now being done on King street east probably made the aldermen more impressed with the idea that the city does not need advertising to increase its trade, and that an exhibition this fall is not necessary.

The large number of people who have been before the police magistrate recently has caused some comment, and many are at loss to understand it. Others, however, have been made acquainted with the workings of the police department in a way that has aroused their indignation, and enabled them to form an opinion of the force, and those in charge of it, that will not be changed as easily as that of some well-known politicians in regard to protection and free trade.

In his annual report the chief of police said that since he took charge there had been a wonderful decrease in crime; yet the figures in the report showed that there had been an unprecedented increase in the receipts of the court. In the face of this the chief's conclusion was an extraordinary one.

St. John is not any worse today than it was a year ago and, to take the chief's report as a basis, it is not any better. The only difference is that there have been some changes in the police force, and the officers have been hustling. They have to make arrests, if they want to keep in the good graces of the chief, and when "times are dull," from a police court point of view, somebody must suffer. The officers have become so anxious to make arrests, and thus win favor, that one would think they were working on commission.

It was generally supposed that it was the duty of the police to protect citizens and look after their interests. But now the citizen must look out for himself, for the police have all they can do to look after the interests of the police court, and when an arrest is under consideration, the honor of writing his name in the committal book and appearing in court the next morning, is apparently all the officer thinks of.

PROGRESS' attention has been called to a number of cases recently, where arrests have been made, which, to impartial observers, were entirely unnecessary. One evening some weeks ago, a man was walking up Princess street from Water to Pince William street. He was in the middle of the road, and was a little unsteady, but quiet, inoffensive, and perfectly able to find his way home.

A group standing at the post office saw two officers make a rush from the Halifax Banking company corner, catch hold of the man and run him down the hill to the lockup. Those who saw the arrest thought the prisoner had done something before they saw him; but afterwards learned that they had seen the offence committed.

This is only a sample case. People are remarking them nearly every day. Only a few days ago, a man who was a little unsteady, but otherwise inoffensive, sat down on a bench in the King square, for a moment on his way home. He showed no signs of going to sleep. He hadn't time to close his eyes, before one of the "newest" was escorting him to the police station.

This is the way the police department has managed to make such a financial showing since Chief Clarke took charge of the force. What has been the result? Ask the appeals committee of the common council. Every arrest for drunkenness means \$5 these days. It is a small sum in the eyes of some people, but then everybody who goes before the police magistrate was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and besides the disgrace of appearing in a police court, there is oftentimes some hustling on the part of his friends to keep him from going to jail. Women whose sons have been unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of the police, have to deprive themselves to add to the revenues of the police court; for few mothers will remain inactive in such a case. This is the result of the present policy at King street east. Such a thing as taking an unfortunate man home is now almost unheard of. There would be no glory in that for the officer, and he would probably be dismissed for going half a block off his beat. That is discipline!

A number of the new additions to the police force made their first acquaintance with the city when they joined the force. Indeed this seems to be the most desirable class in the estimation of those in authority. They are ignorant of city life, of the ways and dispositions of the people, and more likely to make trouble than to keep the peace—especially when the chief object of the department is to increase the revenue.

PROGRESS recognizes the fact that it is hard for the police to do their duty and

please everybody, and the present officers have a more difficult task than some people imagine. There is no such thing nowadays as quietly looking after the public interests. Everything must be done for the benefit of the newspapers, or it will not count. The officer whose name does not figure in the committal book is always in danger of dismissal.

A North End grocer was the victim of an officer's zeal for recognition recently. He was just getting down to business after the holiday when a policeman informed him that he was wanted at the police court. This was a surprise, for, although he has been in business in St. John a good many years, he had never had occasion to go to the police court before. When he arrived there he found himself placed among the large collection that had been gathered in on the holiday, and was informed that the charge against him was for encumbering the sidewalk with barrels of flour. This was the first he knew about having broken the law, and was somewhat startled to see an officer get on the stand and say that he had warned him repeatedly. Treatment like this was more than the grocer could stand, and he gave vent to his feelings in a way that surprised everybody. He said what he thought, which was not very complimentary to the police force in general. He was fined \$2.

If this kind of thing is going to be continued it would be well for the council to have some sort of a "pocket guide to the law" printed and distributed among the tax payers. It comes hard on a man to pay even \$2 for information that was formally furnished by the police free of charge.

### HIS SUNDAY BOOTS.

The Experiences of a Young Immigrant in New Brunswick.

A boy arrived in the city Thursday whose condition excited the sympathy of the people around the depot. He was a young Englishman seventeen years of age, who came out here about fourteen months ago as an immigrant and was placed on a farm in Penobscus.

A short time ago, he received word that his brother was sick in Liverpool, and on his expressing a desire to see him the boy's employer, a man named Morton, was only too ready to let him go, although he had not a dollar to his name. Nor had he any one since he went to work on the farm; and from all appearances it is doubtful whether he added anything to his possessions since coming to this country. The employer brought out the lad's "Sunday boots," told him to put them on, and started him off. The "Sunday boots" caused some amusement, and excited more sympathy at the depot Thursday. They were full of holes and would hardly stay on his feet; yet he said his "every day boots" were worse than them. Before leaving he called another young fellow who was working on the next farm and was getting paid for it. The two had come out from the old country together, and the more fortunate one furnished the price of a ticket to St. John. Those who are always about the depot meet all kinds of characters, and are ever ready to help anybody who deserves it, and the lad fell into good hands. He was provided with a good dinner by Mr. Bailey, Mr. Phelan of the news company gave him the price of a pair of boots, and Joe Mitchell showed him where to get a pair at cost price, after explaining the case. The "all round" interpreter of the depot also made up his mind to get him a berth on a vessel bound for the old country; but somebody suggested that the lad should show his Sunday boots to the immigration agent, and the suggestion was acted upon. When Mr. Gardiner saw him he took him in charge, and Joe did not have a chance to carry out his plans.

### A Scene at the Lansdowne Rink.

Those who dropped into the Lansdowne rink this week, on an afternoon, saw an interesting scene. Mr. T. H. Hall mounted on a chair, with a baton in one hand and a piece of music in the other, was surrounded by 150 school children with shrill little voices, and "God save the Queen" was receiving considerable attention. The children made considerable noise, but it was nothing to what would be heard, when they were informed that the lesson was over. A grand rush was made for the door, 300 little feet jumped off the stage without stopping a moment to think, and the floor was alive with hurrying youngsters.

### A Welcome Passenger at Eastport.

"They say PROGRESS goes everywhere," said a gentleman this week "and I am beginning to believe it, for last Saturday morning at 9 o'clock when the Boston boat touched at Eastport, St. John passengers found PROGRESS of that morning for sale there. Perhaps we did not welcome it. Why a paper under those circumstances is worth ten times its ordinary price; but how in the world do you manage to get your papers to Eastport that early?" "By the help of the American express," was the reply. "See if you can puzzle out the route."

## THEIR PRIDE NO MORE.

HOW THE HAYMARKET SQUARE HAS BEEN NEGLECTED.

The Work of the Polymorphian Club in Making it a Beauty Spot, and the Indifference of the Council—Turned Into a Dumping Ground.

King's square has been receiving some attention lately, and the young trees planted there add to its attractiveness. But how long they will remain in an upright position is the question. Trees have been planted in the public squares before, but a stranger would hardly believe it. Those on the King square, however, are somewhat different from former ones, and it is to be hoped do not bear enough resemblance to a switch or hockey stick to tempt the small boys.

But aside from the tree planting, all the squares are looking well—except one. The former pride of the old Polymorphian club, has become an eyesore to the members of that once enterprising organization. They had hoped to make the Haymarket square one of the beauty spots of the city, and worked night and day with that object in view. They took an interest in it that has perhaps never been taken in any public work before or since. It was all gratuitous, and many of them spent money, besides taking off their coats and working like navvies with pick, shovel and wheelbarrow, after leaving off their regular day's work. They laid out a pretty little square, fenced it in, planted trees, and crowned all with the best fountain in the city. Then a band stand was erected, and a flagstaff that the members of the club were proud of.

But, unfortunately, after all this had been done, the polymorphians could not find time to go on duty day and night to protect the square from the ravages of the small boy, and destructive larger ones. Nor could it be expected that they should do so. Much as some of the members would have liked they could not spare the time year in and year out to trim the grass, repair the fences, and look after the trees, especially when they received no encouragement whatever from those who should have been only too willing to give it.

The polymorphians thought that when they had made the square a place fit to look upon, that the city fathers would take some interest in it, and see that it received the same attention that the other squares did. But they were mistaken. When seats were placed on the "other squares," however, the Haymarket received its complement, but, unlike the others, nobody ever thought it worth while to see whether the seats were distributed over the square, or whether they were all piled in a heap in one corner of it.

This is the way the square has been neglected ever since the club broke up. Although it was a pretty place, and should have been very much prettier after all these years, it has been sadly neglected. Nevertheless the people who live in its vicinity and were once proud of it, pay taxes the same as well as those living up town and think they should receive the same attention at the hands of the council. Furthermore they helped to beautify the city in a practical way, which uptown people did not.

A little attention on the part of the police would have been of great benefit. If a few of the people, found in every community, who seem to delight in destroying everything they can lay their hands on, had been captured and made examples of, the Haymarket square might look as well as any of the uptown squares do today.

As it is, the trees have been destroyed, the fences pulled down, half the band stand carried away in pieces, and now some persons, who certainly deserve to be looked after in the very worst way, are making a dumping ground of it.

All of which, is, to say the least, very discouraging to young men who were willing to take an interest in the city, and work for its improvement.

### The One Thing Talked About.

No one could estimate the hold that Sir John Macdonald had upon the citizens of St. John until the news of his illness arrived. It has been the principal topic of the week. Everywhere you go someone is sure to ask "What is the latest?" "What are the chances?" All along there have been people who maintain that the premier will recover, and his present improved condition at this writing would seem to bear out their faith. No matter what a man's political belief is this week, the one question he is asking is, "How is Sir John?" There could not be a much truer index of a man's greatness.

### More than the Price of It.

A very angry man and a good supporter of the government called upon PROGRESS this week. He held a trade paper in his hand and said that in future the government was going to collect \$2.60 a year duty—five cents a week—on a paper the subscription price of which was \$2. His growl was very audible when he paid it, but he could not blame the customs people—they were only carrying out an irksome order.

### ANOTHER LITTLE LIST

Said to Contain the Names of Policemen Who are Getting Old.

There was some excitement in police circles this week when it was reported that the chief had made out another list of men whom he thought would do better in private life. But he has changed his mind for the present. He is said to have furnished the information of the proposed changes to one of the aldermen, but to another denied that he ever thought of such a thing.

The men selected were said to have been some of the oldest members of the force, who are not so young as they used to be, and therefore not as active as some of the recent additions. However, they are active enough to do all the duty required of them, and are doing it as effectively as the younger men who preceded some of them. The policy pursued, of dismissing men who have served the city faithfully for a long period of years, without having an opportunity of laying by anything for a time when they might be unable to do any other work, is one that does not find favor with the people generally. Many of them have done more for the good of the city than the men who succeed them will ever do, and should not be subjected to such treatment. Besides being deprived of employment they will ever be conscious of the fact that they were dismissed, and if the notices they receive are similar to those given to other officers, who were victims of caprice, they will not, in after years, feel like showing them to people who are not familiar with the way the police force is being conducted at this particular period in his history.

There is no mistaking the feeling of the people on this subject. It is expressed pretty freely in all quarters. The council has been postponing the settlement of the police matter, in which it is specially interested, in a way that is very characteristic of that body; but the earlier the matter is dealt with, the better for all concerned.

### A SUGGESTION TO THE BOARD.

Abolish Tobacco Spitting, Loafers From King Square.

While the board of works is endeavoring to improve King square, there is one evil about it that they can lessen materially, if not abolish altogether. PROGRESS refers to the loafing nuisance around the fountain and alongside the main avenues.

It may fairly be assumed that no person objects to seats on the square. They should be there and should also be a comfort to many persons who find much delight in basking in the warm and health-giving sunlight of these June days.

The unfortunate part of it, however, is that the most of the seats are occupied nearly all the time by loafers, whose principal recreation appears to be whittling, smoking, chewing tobacco and expectorating to the middle of the walk.

It is unpleasant enough for any lady to pass between files of staring loafers, who, in many cases, pass remarks impudent and uncalled for. It is much more unpleasant, however, when they are forced either to raise their skirts to escape tobacco juice or allow them to drag through it.

PROGRESS would suggest a simple remedy to the board of works—one that would no doubt be acceptable to hundreds of people who pass through the three main avenues of the square daily. Remove the seats from about the fountain and from alongside of the main avenues and place them on those walks to the north and south which are not so much used, but where the sun shines just as brightly, and where they are much more likely to be used by those for whom they were intended—the convalescent and the weak and ailing.

### Good for the Printers.

The advance agents of the amusement enterprises which appear in this city next week have been at war, and the battle was a fierce one, in which the printer reaped the benefit. Both had large three sheet posters and were determined to paint the town blue with them, but there were not enough bill boards in town to hold all they were willing to put up. Large posters cost money, but when it is a question of enterprise, money seldom receives consideration. One agent started his man out in the morning and had all the fences in town covered before noon. The other agent sent his man out after dinner, and the bills of the opposition show were invisible before the paste was dry on them. It was not long, however, before these bills suffered the same fate, and the fence bore the same appearance that it did in the morning. And thus the war went on.

### On His Annual Trip.

Mr. A. A. Bragden of the well known firm of I. S. Johnson & Co., was in town this week looking after the interests of his house. Mr. Bragden attends to the advertising and gets even a warmer welcome wherever he goes on that account. One of the latest successes of the firm is *Farm Poultry*, a bright monthly magazine.