

THE BE-AN-EM CAUSEWAY AND THE LAMENTATIONS OF THE HIRELINGS THEREOF.

The Story of Sea Lack the Hunter and the Great Man of the Bee-an-Em and its Bearing on the Prospects of the Bee-an-Em and its Servants.

Now it came to pass that there was lamentation in the city of Munc-Tun, in the land of Never-Go-Back, and a sound of mourning as of the wailing of women, for behold there was dearth throughout the land.

And it came to pass that the people gathered in the market place, the scribes, and the elders, and the Pharisees, but more especially the Pharisees, and they wagged their heads and plucked their beards, and said one to another, Lo! money is tight!

So it came to pass that the iron causeway, which had been a mighty work and a source of great wealth in the land, which was called the Bee-an-Em, was in great part the cause of the dearth, for behold it fell into the hands of the Philistines, and the children of a strange people did profit by it, which was called the Deber-Tram-Sinde-Kate, and the causeway went to the dogs, and the fowls of the air builded their nests in the chimneys of the engines, while they were yet in motion, and the beasts of the field, even the cows and the wild asses, which are called steers, did chase the wagons which ran upon the causeway, and did overtake them and devour the dried grass which was laden upon the wagons, and eat of the potatoes which were in the sacks beneath the dried grass, and they did hallow and were merry, and even waxed fat and did trick.

Because the Sinde-Kate of strange people wist not that the water must be heated in the mighty engines, else would they have no speed. But they said the one to the other: Tush! we will not cast away good gold and silver for naught, but will let the sun heat the water as is only just, that we save our gold. So it was that the slaves which drove the wheels of the wagons and engines, had no food, and were weak withal, for the Sinde-Kate gave them no scrip, neither meal nor flesh, for they were misers, and cared not for their servants. And the men with whom the slaves lodged drove them from their door, and said, Behold ye eat not of our salt herrings, nor fatten upon our potatoes, till ye have paid us the uttermost farthing, you, and your wives and your children. Selah. So it was that the slaves lacked strength to drive away the wild asses, which made nests in the hay, and did roar at the slaves, and trample upon them.

And the slaves lifted up their voices and wept, and said, Wo! for the good days that are past! the days when the good ruler ruled over the Bee-an-Em, and when we were paid more than an hundred pence each day for our labor, and corn and flesh were plentiful, so that we knew not the taste of an red herring. And they wept by the wayside.

Now, there was a ruler in the land which was a mighty man, for he was a money lender, and he was rich and great, but he lent not money upon usury himself, but was the hiring of a greater man, which was called "Our's," and "the service" by those who worked under him.

And the name of the first man was Aye-Aitch-Bed-Dam, and the name of his master was "The Banc."

Now, Aye-Aitch was a humane man and a merciful. And the people waxed poorer and poorer, and they saw neither gold, nor copper, but were fain to use the beasts of the field to barter for grain, and the skins of wild animals were even used as collateral, instead of scrip. And behold there was a mighty hunter in the land of Never-Go-Back, and behold he slew many beasts, both fierce and blood thirsty, and men called his name Sea-Lack, because he washed not, neither did water come near him, and the hair of his head was not shorn, neither his beard, for many years, so the people said: Behold, even the sea would be lacking in power to cleanse him, so they jeered and did name him Sea-Lack for a name.

And he dwelt amongst the high hills which are called the Lutz Mountains, and there had he his lair.

And it came to pass that the slaves of the Bee-an-Em came to the hunter and abode with him for a season, and did eat of his store an I take shelter in his lair.

And it came to pass in the fullness of time that Sea-Lack was wroth at the slaves because he saw not their money, neither paid they him for their food, having naught wherewith to satisfy him, so he turned them from his door, and they went down even unto the city which is called Munc-Tun.

Now it came to pass that Sea-Lack did owe unto the mighty ruler Aye Aitch-Bed-Dam shakels of silver, which he had lent to him on usury. And he came before him, and bowed himself even unto the ground, and he said, let my lord not look upon his servant with an angry countenance, neither be wroth, for behold the time has come when my debt which I owe unto my lord is due, and I have not wherewithal to pay him.

Now Aye Aitch was a man of goodly stature, tall, like unto the young oaks of the forest, and of mighty girth like even unto the fir trees of Lebanon. And his beard shone like spun gold. And his raiment was of fine texture. And he looked down upon Sea-Lack and spake unto him, and he said go to, and cease from thy lamenting, for since thou hast not the coin, and art a mighty hunter, behold I will make it easy for thee, and will even take thy debt out in trade. Bring unto me I pray you before the season is over, the skin of a young bear of the second season, which is of fine texture and well cured withal, that I may lay it upon the floor of my house, and thy debt shall be forgiven thee.

And Sea-Lack rejoiced, but his joy was of short duration, for behold, the season

was a poor one for bears, and day by day he visited his traps but caught nothing. And when the summer was well nigh come, he went down into the city again and came before the ruler and said, Let not my lord slay his servant, but I have no bear skin for him, neither scrip nor fur of any animal, for behold the times are hard and bears are scarce. And he beat his breast and plucked his beard.

And the ruler said, Nay, but peradventure thou mayest yet procure me the bear skin, since the season is not yet over.

And Sea Lack shook his head and answered, Let not my lord delude himself, nor yet count upon the bear skin, but behold I have other sources of revenue, which may yet enable me to pay, for behold the servants of the Bee-an-Em did lodge with me and do owe me many shakels and much copper coin, and when the Sinde-Kate do pay them their wage then will they pay me, for so have they sworn, and I will even pay my lord.

And Aye-Aitch-Bed-Dam sat down upon the ground and wept, and he said, Oh, mighty Nimrod, hast thou naught else to depend, but only that? And he said, Naught but that. Then said the ruler, Of two uncertainties we will choose the least uncertain, therefore oh Sea-Lack give me again the promise of the bear skin, for more probable is it that thou wilt catch a bear out of season; aye, even in a country where bears are not, than that the Bee-an-Em causeway will pay its hirelings.

And Sea-Lack fell down before the ruler and embraced his knees. And when the chronicler writ this true record, the hunter was still seeking for the bear with lamentations and tears, and also with firearms and staves and swords.

And other records will be writ from time to time as it happeneth.

GEOFFREY CUTBERT STRANGE.

THE LATE ARRIVALS. The Minister Thought They Were Opera Singers "Returning the Compliment."

A rather good story is being told just now at the expense of a prominent Moncton divine; and much good natured chaff has been obliged to endure in consequence. The reverend gentleman took his family to the Opera house on Saturday evening to see the performance of *Erminie* by the Adelaide Randall company, and was greatly pleased with the entertainment, applauding heartily and giving every sign of cordial approval.

Next morning, just after the good parson had entered the reading desk to begin morning service, a party of distinguished looking strangers came into church, sailed decorously up the aisle, and were shown to a front seat by the usher in charge. The swift glance with which a clergyman invariably greets a late arrival in church assured the rector that the party were entire strangers to him, and also that their number corresponded exactly with that of the leading actors in the opera company: an electric flash of deductive reasoning reminded him that he had paid them the compliment of attending their performance the evening before, and the logical conclusion followed that here was a graceful acknowledgment of his appreciation—a return visit as it were—which was most gratifying and at the same time showed clearly how true it was that the stage was becoming more and more elevated every year. The party of strangers not only behaved with the utmost decorum during the entire service, but they took part in it heartily, using their own prayer and hymn-books and showing a perfect familiarity with its details, only seen in members of the church. The sermon was listened to with deepest attention, and as the gratified rector stepped down from the pulpit after service, the only thing which tempered his pleasure at seeing so much religion amongst members of the dramatic profession was a feeling of surprise that all the leading members of the company should happen to belong to the same church.

The peculiarity was fully explained the next day, when the good rector discovered that the party of strangers consisted of six members of the first families of Dorchester, who had driven to Moncton the day before, to attend the opera, and had remained over morning service! N. B. The dramatic profession is not necessarily any the less elevated, on account of this little incident.

At Aunt's House.

One time when we's at aunt's house— "Way in the country—where They's ist but woods, an' pigs and cows, An' all out doors an' air! An' orchard swing, an' churry trees, An' churrys in 'em! Yes, an' these Here red-head birds steal all they please An' tetch 'em of you dare! W'y wunst, one time when we wuz there We et out on the porch!

Wite where the cellar-door wuz shut The table wuz; an' I Let aunt set by me an' cut My wifes tip-up pie Tuz awful funny! I could see The red-heads in the churry tree; An' beehives, where you got to be; So keeful goin' by— An' comp'ny there an' all! we— We et out on the porch!

An'—I ist et pisurves an' things "At ma don't 'low me to— An' chieku gizzards (don't like wings Like parrots does, do you?) An' all the time the wind blowed there An' I could feel it in my hair, An' it smell clover ever'where! An' a old red-head flew Purr! nigh wite over my high chair, When we et out on the porch! —James Whitcomb Riley.

The Wanderer.

Upon a mountain height, far from the sea, I found a shell, And to my listening ear the lonely thing Ever a song of ocean seemed to tell.

How came the shell upon that mountain height? Ah, who can say Whether there dropped by some too careless hand, Or whether there cast when ocean swept the land, Ere the Eternal had ordained the day?

Strange, was it not? Far from its native deep, One song it sang,— Sang of the awful mysteries of the tide, Sang of the misty air, profound and wide,— Ever with echoes of the ocean rang.

And as the shell upon the mountain height Sings of the sea, So do I ever, leagues and leagues away,— So do I ever, wandering where I may,— Sing, O my home! sing, O my home! of thee. —Eugene Field.

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ONLY A LITTLE HITCH. The Millmen's Agreement, and Its Interpretation by Employers and Men.

The backbone of the great mill strike—the most serious known in St. John for very many years—was broken on Tuesday last when the following agreement was signed by two leading millowners and the officers of the millmen's union:

ST. JOHN, N. B., July 28, 1891. It is hereby agreed that in the event of the men formerly in the employ of Messrs. Barnhill & Murray returning to work they do so at the old terms so far as hours and wages are concerned; that the question of the rate of wages shall then be decided between the employers and the men, individually, and that should any reduction of wages be thought necessary to the interests of all concerned, such reduction shall in no case exceed 6 per cent nor 10 cents a day, no matter what the rate of wages be.

WITNESSES— DAVID McLELLAN, M. McDADE. G. E. BARNHILL, W. H. MURRAY, (per J. Fraser Gregory), F. A. LINGLEY, pres. M. U., THOS. HAYES, vice-pres., G. HUMPHREYS, treasurer.

This agreement was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted by a monster meeting of millmen on Tuesday night, and the news that the strike was practically ended was received with the greatest favor all over the city.

PROGRESS was sorry to see by Thursday's papers that there was some hitch about the starting of Murray's mill. Inquiry elicited the fact that the trouble arose in this way: Mr. Murray was quite willing that his men should return to work at the old system of nine hours per day, and at the old rate of wages, as provided by the agreement. He wanted it understood, however, that he would after the first pay day take advantage of the clause in the agreement empowering him to make a reduction not exceeding six per cent nor 10 cents a day in any man's wages, and would not consent to start his mill until the men gave an understanding to that effect. Many of the men were willing to give such an understanding but some were not. Mr. Murray decided that not having a sufficient crew to resume operations on Thursday morning, he would not start under any circumstances before Monday next.

The question whether Mr. Murray is violating the contract entered into with the officers of the union is a nice one. Theoretically he is; practically he is not. He is not living up to the letter of the agreement, but he is certainly acting in accord with its spirit. The agreement says that the men shall return to work at the old hours and wages. Mr. Murray is willing that they shall do so. No one doubts for a moment that the agreement was a compromise one. Being such, if Mr. Murray wanted to squeeze the men under it he could, after they had been to work even one hour, reduce their wages. He does not propose to do anything of the kind however. He, practically speaking, says to his men: "It is in your interest and mine that we shall understand each other at the start. I am prepared to resume operations under the old hours and wages, which is a victory for the men. Rather than have you imagine, however, that there is to be no cut later, I want it understood that I will take advantage of the reduction clause of the contract after the first pay day, which shall be the 8th of August. Until then your wages shall be at the old figures."

PROGRESS need scarcely say that it has been a friend to the millmen in this contest. That fact being admitted, our sincerity will not be doubted when it advises to accept Mr. Murray's proposition. They are committed to it by their unanimous voice at Tuesday night's meeting; they are committed to it by the action of their officers who have the welfare of the millmen at heart, and they are committed to it by that strong public opinion which was almost unanimous in their favor while they were fighting for a great principle. Having won on the principle for which they were contending, let them see to it now that they do not lose caste by hair-splitting over some trifling matter of detail.

PROGRESS will be delighted with the result of the strike, if the present temporary hitch does not become serious, and we believe it will not. The men have got the best of the arrangement, and can afford not to crow too much. Then success must not turn the heads of a number sufficiently large to upset the common sense methods of the others. The prosperity of the community demands that all the mills be started as soon as possible. The men having won that for which they fought should do nothing, as we have said, to forfeit the good opinion of the public and that they would be sure to do if any considerable number of them became unreasonable as to details in dealing with their employers.

An Obstacle.

A theological student who had preached one Sunday in a city at a considerable distance from the school which he attended, wished to take the early train back on Monday morning. He was delayed in starting, and had to stop on the way to get a check cashed, so that when he reached the upper end of the station, the train which had stopped at the other end had already started out. It would pass him, however; so he waited, and when the baggage-car came along he threw his bag on board, and with sensible precaution decided to wait for the last car before jumping on himself. The bystanders watched the proceeding with interest, and broke into laughter as the rear car came along. There, on the lower step of the last platform, stood a man who must have weighed fully three hundred pounds, an effective hindrance to any attempt toward boarding the train. The young man fell back and waited for the next train, while the obstacle continued in his position on the steps quite unconscious of anything except the cigar he was smoking.

Presence of Mind.

A newspaper correspondent sometimes has to undergo, in this prosaic age of the world, personal perils not unlike those which, in former times, the military spy was constantly falling into. Under such circumstances of peril he must have his wits about him. The late Laurence Oliphant, a journalist and man of letters, was once the correspondent of the London Times, which in France, was a hated paper. He attended a revolutionary meeting at Lyons, where

the population had begun to commit desperate excesses. He knew French so well, and had so cleverly assumed the guise of a workman, that he was not suspected; but suddenly a rumor was announced to the meeting that an emissary of the brutal London Times was there. At once the mob was in an uproar, and loud cries resounded of "Cherchons-le! a la mort! a la riviere!" Let us find him! kill him! to the river with him! Oliphant jumped to his feet with a look of overwhelming indignation, shouting at the top of his voice, "Cherchons-le! Cherchons-le! Moi, je le connais de vue!" (Let's find him! I know him by sight!) Under cover of this zeal, and hunting everywhere for the detected Englishman, he made his escape.

STRAWBERRIES and CREAM, GREEN PEAS and CUCUMBERS, WATER MELONS and PINEAPPLES, PICKLED MACKEREL and SHAD, for sale at 32 Charlotte street, by J. S. Armstrong & Bro.

CONDENSED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 35 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

FOR SALE, HALLETT, DAVIS & CO. Square Piano, 7 1/2 octave; four round corners. Cost \$600.00, only \$200 time in use; must be sold; price, \$250.00.—E. FLOOD & SONS, 31 and 33 King street.

STAMPS. COLLECTORS, ATTENTION! 25 varieties Foreign stamps, and Album to hold 200 varieties, only 25 cents. 1000 mixed Foreign Stamps, only 25 cents.—A. E. JUBIN & Co., 38 Brenton street, Halifax, N. S. Aug'19

10 BEAUTIFUL LARGE Photos (amounting to \$1.00) for scrap albums of 1000's of interest in and about St. John, mailed to any address on receipt of \$1.00; 8 mounted and highly finished, same price.—Photo Studio, 241 Water-Street, St. John, N. B. Im.

SHORTHAND. FRED DEVINE (Court stenographer), will receive pupils in shorthand and typewriting, at 251 King street east; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Scovil system. July 15 '91

PHOTO. OF QUEEN VICTORIA, cabinet size; very handsome—sent by mail for 25c. in coin or stamps.—H. V. MORAN & Co., Box 21, St. John, N. B.

89 LESSONS IN PENMANSHIP FOR \$1.50. This course consists of nearly 200 separate pen-written copies (reproduced) of exercises, capitals, small letters, figures and elegant writing, accompanied by a book containing full and explicit instructions. Sent post-paid to any address, on receipt of price. Address—St. John Institute of Penmanship, J. R. CURRIE Prin. 15 1/2 Im.

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BLUINE. THE GREAT BLEACHING Buling and purifier. A 10 cent package will do 24 washings and last six months. The cheapest and best Bluine on the market. Sent 10 cts. to R. PARKIN, 78 Germain st. for a sample. July 11

COSTUMES, WIGS, WHISKERS.—A. L. SPENCER, Balmoral Hotel, 10 King st., St. John, N. B., has the largest and best assortment of the above in the Maritime Provinces, which can be hired for Parades, Carnivals, Theatres, Concerts, etc., at right prices. Dec 27

LAMP BURNER.—LAMBERTSON'S safety Lamp Burner, which I have been selling four years, is the most paying, and most satisfactory article for agents to handle. Send 45 cents for pretty sample Burner, in descriptive circulars, and testimonials.—A. L. SPENCER, Wholesale and Retail Agent for Maritime Provinces, Balmoral Hotel 10 King st., St. John, N. B. Dec 27

FIVE LINES IN THIS COLUMN cost 25 cents for one insertion—\$1 for one month. If you have anything to sell that any person wants, you cannot do better than say so here.

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LADIES' POCKET BOOKS, Note Papers, &c., McARTHUR'S, 80 King Street. May 27

BOARDING. A FEW PERMANENT or TRANSIENT Boarders can be accommodated with large and pleasant rooms, in that very centrally located house, 78 Sidney street.—Mrs. McLENNAN. May 2, 3m.

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EARLY! PERHAPS. But winter is not far off, a very few weeks hence you will get out your COAL SCUTTLES. Our Winter Stock arrived this week, and EARLY PURCHASERS have dozens to select from. We commence to show them today. PRICES ARE REMARKABLY LOW. T. McAVITY & SONS, 13 & 15 KING STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B.

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