

HABITS OF THE GIPSIES.

PECULIARITIES FOUND IN THE RACE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Though still on the road, the Gipsy is a man of means—some of his profitable occupations—he has a keen eye to business in his ventures.

LONDON, May 15.—The British Gipsies, as well as our American gipsies, hundreds of whom I could name who are worth from \$20,000 to \$100,000 in landed property, have, during the past quarter of a century developed a remarkable ability for certain lowly kinds of trade. These have been a natural outgrowth, in most instances, of the petty wayside dickerings of less fortunate times, but there are still pursuits requiring the exercise of good thrift and judgment and of a genuine probability that make the gipsy middleman welcome both where occasional credit is necessary, and among his countryside customers. In the main they are van-dwellers, in the summer time, as with us, travelling certain well-defined routes and purveying in villages and even in the outskirts of towns and cities, articles whose annual aggregate value mount to a stupendous sum.

Their caravans at the outset may comprise one or more vans. These are, briefly described, tiny houses upon wheels. They are drawn by donkeys, or often by broken down city tram horses which the gipsies get in the cities for a song, and which with care are finally transformed into excellent cattle. Following these may be three or four, or a half dozen, little donkey carts, after the fashion of the costermongers' city carts. These will hold the real resources of the band. An examination of the latter would reveal almost enough material in quantity, certainly enough in variety, to stock a country store.

This stock in trade has not been picked up at random. In the London White-chapel district there are great storehouses of "Travellers' Goods." Their owners, who I find include wealthy Gipsies, could not continue in business without the Gipsies' trade. The goods handled are somewhat similar to our American "bargain counter" odds and ends, especially in tinware, and metal goods, hardware, crockery, cheap oilcloths and household nick-nacks, with the coarsest beads and gilded jewelry. It would be a revelation to ordinary English tradesmen to realize the enormous quantities of stuff annually disposed of in this manner, throughout England Scotland and Wales, and the integrity of these Gipsy wanderers where they ask and receive credit for their supplies, as they often do. Smaller "Travellers' Goods" stores may be found near the Bull Ring in Birmingham, where carts may be refilled in the lazy journeyings; but small shipments from time to time are forwarded by rail from London.

I have friends in the fruit and nut trade in the Drury Lane quarter of London who have supplied Gipsies in all parts of the provinces for the past twenty years. Half of this trade is done on credit, and the fruiterers all inform me they have never lost a penny at the hands of their thousands of Gipsy small customers. All these goods, fruits and nuts, are hawked in little villages and sold at fairs and on market days. Indeed the English country fair of today would lose all its picturesqueness and most of its attractions for younger people were the petty Gipsy booths and Gipsy showmen withdrawn.

About the middle of the century when the British Rural Police Act, which was directed against Gipsies and all the wandering folk of the road, came in force, we find Borrow lamenting that the "Gipsy had nowhere to lay his head." The oppressive measure undoubtedly sent America 50,000 English Gipsies within a period of ten years. Indeed it almost exterminated Gipsydom in Great Britain. But the coming Gipsy soon saw a way to mend his fortunes. He took out a license to become a travelling merchant. "Two and six-pence" gives him the right for the period of one year. He could still remain Gipsy in every other particular. Insensibly and by degrees he actually became the fellow whose vocation he originally assumed in order to merely exist.

There gradually followed a system among the wanderers of providing "Gipsy ground" on which to camp in safety from the raids of the mounted constabulary. Gipsies here and there who had a footing and could be trusted, bought or leased bits of waste land, unused lanes, idle tracts at the outskirts of cities and towns, or camping rights in roomy old stable yards. These are in turn sublet to arriving pilgrims at from one shilling down to a penny a day. And thus, with Gipsy travelers who really have something besides "black arts" to sell, one can travel from Land's End to John O'Groat's house, or London to Oban, and return, and never upon the road by day, or underneath the tent or the van-roof and the stars at night, be outside the comforting protection of watchful British law.

But the British Gipsy is something more than a "vagrant" trader. His kind are encroaching upon, or making for themselves, many other profitable pursuits and vocations. I have always held that in this would be found the real evolution of the Gipsy; and that in just the degree he became like other men—not in religion, because you can no more reach a Gipsy with christian missionary schemes than you can secure any expression of belief from any other form of Agnosticism—in vocation and the betterment to himself and family in material living, in like degree would the so-called "black arts" of Gipsydom disappear. I

have from time to time shown this to be true among American Gipsies. It is gratifying to find it true among British Gipsies. I do not regard them as having chosen the most elegant of vocations; nor as a class can they be said to sustain enviable relations to society. But they are doing something; making money; finding themselves possessed of inherent industrial power; and their acquisition and possession of means are making them a better race of men.

In one of the large London "Travelling Goods" concerns previously referred to, the largest shareholder is a Gipsy who is reputed to be worth £8,000. I know of many shooting galleries in London conducted by Gipsies. They are not only successful with these, but, in associative form, just as they are beginning to own most of the money-making Punch-and-Judy shows of the metropolis, control many like privileges at noted places of holiday resort near London, from which unusual profit is derived. One of the most thriving vegetable bootmen of Covent Garden market is a Gipsy, who is in great favor with, and is brought much trade by, the countless costers of the neighborhood.

Near the Royal Albert Docks is a public house owned and conducted by a Gipsy, and this property is worth more than £2,000. Precisely as in some of the leading American cities, where important horse sales-stables are owned by Gipsies who are thought to be of another race, I found in London and its environs thirty-one similar establishments wholly controlled by Gipsies. They are credited with an extraordinary amount of trade, not only in horses but in donkeys, Shetland and Cushtendal ponies and goats. Commission dealings are unknown. Every transaction is made for cash, and in two of these places the leasehold, fittings and stock of animals always on hand must require the possession of a capital of from £5,000 to £10,000.

An odd and profitable business in London is that of purveyor of carts and donkeys to the costermongers. There are thousands upon thousands of these costers in the metropolis. Many are notoriously improvident. To start in business needs a handbarrow or cart, and a coster of recognized standing must possess both cart and donkey. There are many places where from 50 to 500 carts are hired out by the day, week or month, and where costers may purchase barrows, carts and donkeys on the partial-payment plan. Those controlling this manner of business are said to secure a profit of 500 to 1,000 per cent. They are usually graduate costers; but three of those engaged in the traffic I know to be Gipsies, who are becoming very rich. They are supposed to be retired costers, with whom London Gipsies have many points of common resemblance, character and interest.

I know in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Plymouth and London of many Gipsies who are chimney-sweepers and who, by hiring others and doing "contract" work have secured independence and comfort. At Brighton, Southport, Scarborough and other important English seaside resorts are hundreds of donkeys upon which "outers" and all children are given bone-breaking rides along the beach. Nearly all the owners of these are Gipsies, some of whom not only have respectable bank accounts but also own town properties. In and about Nuneaton and Coventry are many Gipsy property owners. A few are farmers, but most own properties at the outskirts of these cities, such as places for stabling, sales stables and old inns which still have attraction for the farmers, and make dickerings in horses and other live stock possible and profitable. Probably the richest of all British Gipsies, one Smith, lives at Nuneston. He owns nearly all the houses and land in one entire street; has money in considerable sums; and is also the owner of bank stock and blocks of shares in the London and North Western Railway. Altogether his holdings are computed to exceed a quarter of a million dollars.

On one occasion while visiting the old cathedral city of Gloucester, England, and wandering in St. Catherine's street where the Sunday School was first established by Robert Raikes, I came at the head of the street, to a little old inn much frequented by farmers. I entered and sat down to rest. A half dozen country folk were just closing some sort of commercial transaction, and one of the men had counted out £300 in gold sovereigns. He took a receipt and shortly left. I asked the barmaid if that was not an odd place for so much money, and she replied that it was not, for "Oilcloth Dick" and such as he frequented the place; and "Gipsies seemed to have all the ready money in England these days." His van is just over there," she added, "and it's worth seeing." Repairing to the lane indicated I found "Oilcloth Dick," his van, and some half dozen gipsy families. The latter had for years peddled oilcloth, which they secure from Yorkshire factories, throughout England, Scotland and Wales. They are several hundred in number. Their vans are beautiful specimens of the wagon-maker's art; and all these Gipsies are practically travelling merchants of large means and long established trade.

In no city in the world can be found finer draught horses than in Liverpool. The floats or four-wheeled trucks are called "lorries," their drivers "lorrymen," and the huge horses which, two and three tandem, pull from four to six tons of cotton or iron over the streets with dignified ease, are consequently lorry cattle. They are chiefly bred in Wales, Lancashire and Clydesdale, Scotland. Having been much among these lorrymen and their "nippers" or apprentice helpers, I soon discovered that the trade in these valuable horses was not altogether confined to English horse-dealers. Two Gipsies purchase Scottish and Lancashire horses for the Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester markets, and one Gipsy is the largest trader from Wales. It is not seldom that these Romany horse-merchants have from £2,000 to £5,000 invested in single shipments, and very different than with their Gorgio or Gentile brethren, every penny of these amounts is their own and not borrowed money. These instances could be, from personal knowledge, indefinitely multiplied. There is but one conclusion from them. The "Gipsy question" on this side of the ocean will soon cease to occupy the attention of even the missionaries; for the British Gipsy is becoming a British business man, even though as yet in a small way; and in canniness and thrift in trade and economy, in living no human being can surpass this outcast Romany race.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

WELLINGTON COUNTY MIRACLE.

THE REMARKABLE RECOVERY OF A YOUNG LADY AFTER MUCH SUFFERING.

Attacked by St. Vitus Dance and Forced to Abandon Her Studies—After a Considerable Period of Helplessness She Regains Health and Strength—The Facts as Related by the Young Lady and Her Mother—A Case That Has Excited Much Interest.

[From The Templer, Hamilton, Ontario.] There were no "colonization roads" when the hardy pioneers of Wellington county came to the bush. The settlers who in 1850 came to look for homes in the north-western part of that county, now Minto township, which was known then as "Queen's Bush," had access to the budding community only by the "blazed" road from Guelph to Southampton. Along this road occasional clearings no doubt existed, but as the northern part of the county was then almost one swamp, such clearings were few and far between. When at length representatives of almost every nationality fled from the attempt to carve a home out of the swamp, the Scotch stormed the swamp and their tenacity and energy proved successful, and to-day the smiling settlements and fruitful farms are the result of the hard toil of the former days.

Five miles north of the town of Harrison on the seeming endless swamp rose to high, undulating clay land, and this favored spot settlers were not slow to discover. Soon every lot was occupied, and the log houses presaged a coming village. Among the first settlers were: Wm. Cardwell, Wm. Buntin, Robert Arthurs, Thomas Hart, Luke Grace, John Small and others. In a few years a post-office was secured, and William Cardwell was appointed postmaster, a position he holds to this day. The post-office was called Drew, after Judge Drew, of Wellington county.

Some fifteen years ago the old Buntin homestead was purchased by Peter Donaldson, who resided formerly in the province of Quebec. He and his wife were the parents of a family of seven sons, and shortly after they settled at Drew a little girl came to bless the home and to cheer the hearts of father, mother and brothers by her sweet smiles. When she was about seven years old her health failed, and it was only after careful treatment by the family physician that the rosy bloom was restored to her cheeks, and her school duties were resumed. Upwards of two years ago the dread hand of disease was again laid upon her, and as the disease developed the symptoms clearly pointed to St. Vitus Dance. This disease, known to medical circles as chorea, attacks the nervous system and affects the voluntary muscles with constant irregular movements. The disease made steady headway, notwithstanding all the efforts made to counteract it, until that marvellous nineteenth century remedy, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People was tried. These Pills came before the notice of the parents through the columns of the Templer. Mr. Donaldson has been a subscriber of The Templer since it started, and had every confidence in the veracity of its statements. When he saw in its columns, therefore, the account of remarkable cures effected by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, he was ready to accept the statements and at once procured the pills for his daughter. It was not long before a decided improvement was noted, and but a few weeks till her former abundant measure of health was restored. The complete restoration of Charlotte Donaldson to health was the cause of very much joy and gratification to the parents and family, and of much appreciative comment in the neighborhood. In a short time the bare facts of the case came under the notice of The Templer. One of the staff was despatched to ascertain full particulars, so that they might be given to the public, to benefit thousands of similarly afflicted persons. The Donaldson homestead is 21, con. 17, Minto township. A handsome substantial brick residence, and a large, well-built barn, attest the thrift of the family. The Templer representative and his friend were received very cordially by Mrs. Donaldson, who explained that her husband was absent, having driven to the neighboring town of Clifford early in the morning, and then led the way to the pleasant drawing-room of the house. After a little general preliminary conversation, the reporter asked Mrs. Donaldson of the object of his call. She expressed her satisfaction and willingness to give every detail and verify every statement. She called her daughter, and the lively robust maiden with the bloom of health upon her cheeks, who responded to the call looked as if she was an utter stranger to sickness. In a few words she told her story. "You know that my name is Charlotte Donaldson, and I am almost fourteen years of age. I have been sick, very ill they all tell me, but now think I must have been a dream, so free am I from sickness. I was first attacked with rheumatic fever, and on returning to school was trying very hard to pass the last entrance examinations, but I could not study, I could not sit still at school. I could not keep my hands and face quiet. I stayed home and tried to help mother with the house work, but I was of no use. I could not dress myself or lace my own shoes. I often tried to help wash dishes, but the plates and cups would slip from my shaking hands and break upon the floor. Last summer mother gave me Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and it was not long till I felt better and was able to take care of myself. I have used the pills ever since, and cannot say too much in praise of what has cured me."

Mrs. Donaldson corroborated the statement her daughter made, and said: "It is going on two years since Charlotte became troubled with nervousness, and I think it was the rheumatic fever that brought it on. Very soon her nervousness increased. She could not keep in one position. She could do nothing, not even for herself. Her right arm was not so seriously affected, but her left arm and side was continually twisting and twitching. Frequently the twitching affected her whole body. The disease affected even her tongue, and she could not talk plainly. Her eyes too were sore. I had a dreadful time last summer; we had a lot of men and it was impossible to get a servant girl. Charlotte could not do a thing to help me, and needed a great deal of attention herself."

Upon enquiry as to how Dr. Williams' Pink Pills came to be used, Mrs. Donaldson said that the celebrated John Marshall case, as reported in The Templer, had been the subject of much comment in their own family as well as in the neighborhood.

Here they noticed Pink Pills were good for nervous diseases, and at once determined to give them a trial, and last September secured the first box. The improvement in Charlotte's health was soon noticed, and in a month or so she was decidedly better. Now she had entirely recovered and had commenced school again, and would no doubt be successful at the coming entrance examinations.

The pills had also been used with good effect upon another member of the family. Stephen, the youngest boy, had been troubled for some time with an abscess in the leg, just below the knee. The doctor had several times nearly healed the sore, but it always broke out afresh. Stephen had begun the use of the pills when the good effect upon his sister had been noticed, and now the sore was completely healed.

The kindness of the family in giving every information was not all, for before they would allow the quizzical reporter and his friend to leave, they were treated to a delicious lunch of newly made maple syrup, accompanied by noted Scotch oatmeal cake. This syrup was maple syrup, and not the watery mixture that is so frequently palmed off as the genuine article.

Further testimony was not necessary to convince the reporter of the genuineness of the case, but he called upon several of the neighbors, and among them the veteran postmaster, Mr. William Cardwell, and all bore testimony to the facts as here stated.

The druggists of Harrison were also seen, and they stated that Pink Pills had a remarkable sale. In reply to a query, one of them said: "Yes, they sell better than any other medicine or drug we have in the shop."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are manufactured by Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., of Brockville, Ont., and Schenectady, N. Y., a firm of unquestioned reliability. Pink Pills are not looked on as a patent medicine but rather as a prescription. An analysis of their properties show that these pills are an unfailing specific for all diseases arising from an impoverished condition of the blood, or from an impairment of the nervous system, such as loss of appetite, depression of spirits, anaemia, chlorosis or green sickness, general muscular weakness, dizziness, loss of memory, locomotor ataxia, paralysis, sciatica, rheumatism, St. Vitus Dance, the after effects of a gripple, all diseases depending upon a vitiated condition of the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. They are also a specific for the troubles peculiar to the female system, correcting irregularities, suppressions and all forms of female weakness, building anew the blood and restoring the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of any nature. These pills are not a purgative medicine. They contain only life-giving properties, and nothing that could injure the most delicate system. They act directly on the blood, supplying its life-giving qualities, by assisting it to absorb oxygen, that great supporter of all organic life. In this way the blood becoming "built up," and being supplied with its lacking constituents, becomes rich and red, nourishes the various organs, stimulating them to activity in the performance of their functions, and thus eliminates diseases from the system.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper (printed in red ink). Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk or by the dozen or hundred, and any dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. The public are also cautioned against all other so-called blood-builders and nerve tonics put up in similar form intended to deceive. They are all imitations, whose makers hope to reap a pecuniary advantage from the wonderful reputation achieved by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Ask your dealer for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and refuse all imitations and substitutes.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company from either address at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50. The price at which these pills are sold makes a course of treatment comparatively inexpensive as compared with other remedies or medical treatment.

A bit of reasoning ascribed to Rossini: "I don't like spinach, and it is very fortunate I don't, because if I did like it I should eat it, and I can't endure it."

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Board of Health.

TO THE CITIZENS OF SAINT JOHN AND VICINITY:

THE Board of Health has this day issued its Annual Notices to Owners and Tenants of Houses to Cleanse and Purify their Premises.

The Board further requests that in the interest of the health of the city,

all citizens will assist the Board, by the personal inspection of their premises, the condition of sinks, drains, traps, vents, etc.

To All Persons Whom These Presents May Concern:

HAVING been commissioned by the Honorable Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, G. B. K. C. M. G. L. D., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, under the Great Seal and by virtue of the powers and authorities vested in him under the Act of Assembly 49th Victoria, Chapter 4, intituled "An Act to authorize the issue of Commissions under the Great Seal for certain purposes," sole Commissioner to proceed to the Town of Bathurst in the County of Gloucester, and there to enquire into and thoroughly investigate all complaints charging any infraction of the School Law and Regulations of the Board of Education by or on part of the Teachers or Trustees or of any or either of them in District No. 2, in the Town of Bathurst, as well as in School District No. 16, in the Parish of Bathurst, in the said County of Gloucester, or complaining of the management of the schools or any of them in the said Districts or either of them and also any and every matter of complaint touching the management of any other school or schools in said County of Gloucester, which may be laid before me and to report under my hand all evidence that I may take or receive thereupon, together with a statement of the facts which in my opinion shall be established by the evidence so taken. And having accepted the burden of the said trust and duties imposed upon me by virtue of the said Commission I do hereby give public notice that I have appointed and by these Presents do appoint

Tuesday, The Thirtieth Day of May, A. D. 1893,
at 11 o'clock in the afternoon,

at the Court Court House in the said Town of Bathurst, as the time and place for holding the said investigation and enquiry, and that I will then and there enter upon and thereafter from day to day until the termination thereof continue to enquire into and investigate all matters of complaint coming within the purview of my said Commission. And for the more convenient and orderly pursuing of the said investigation, I do hereby require that all the matters of complaint which I am so empowered to enquire into be presented to me in writing not later than FRIDAY, the 26th day of May, instant, and that a copy thereof be filed in the office of the Honorable the Provincial Secretary, at Fredericton, not later than the same day, of which all persons are required to take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.
Dated at Fredericton this Ninth day of May, A. D. 1893.
JNO. JAS. FRASER,
Judge of the Supreme Court