

A TRUE PHILANTHROPY.

HOW SOME OF THE SURPLUS MIGHT BE TURNED TO ACCOUNT.

Moncton Has an Opportunity of Exercising a Truly Christian Spirit by Benefiting the Honest Working Man—A Grand Jubilee Memorial Suggested.

MONCTON, Nov. 10.—Next to the want of district nurses to look after the sick poor of Moncton or perhaps almost equal with it, is the crying need of decent houses for the laboring classes, the men who are honest and respectable, but who have a wife and four or five children to support on an income of a dollar; or a dollar and ten cents a day. Unfortunately, no month contains more than twenty-seven working days, and the majority have only twenty-six; twenty-six dollars a month to support six people; four dollars and a half a month for each person, and rent and taxes to come out of that, not to mention clothing and doctor's bills. Why it would feed them but scantily; and yet hundreds of working men are living on that sum uncomplainingly, rearing families on it and bringing them up to be respectable citizens. But with such an income it is scarcely to be expected that the laboring man can spend much money for rent, three dollars is about the limit of his ability in this respect, and with such a limit his choice of a house is not easy. In short it usually revolves itself into bad and worse; and his choice lies between the lower part of Telegraph street, Orange, and Pearl streets. If he is respectable he objects very strongly to all these localities, but he has no option in the matter because it is only on those streets that he can hope to find any kind of a dwelling within his means; and what a dwelling it is when found! Scarcely fit to shelter a decent horse or cow, cold as a barn, utterly without conveniences of any kind, and situated in a neighbourhood where the most hardened would scarcely wish to bring up children, the scene of daily and nightly fights "raids" and brawls the gathering place of all the criminals, all the soiled doves, all the "tough" element of the city. But the working man cannot pick and choose his neighbors, he has but three dollars a month to spend on rent and he must be satisfied to make his home in a place where that sum will go farthest. The children can be kept indoors in the winter, and it they are obliged to mingle with the lowest of the low in summer, and see and hear sights and sounds utterly unfit for them, why he is powerless to prevent it, and must do the best he can with his small means.

Here is a typical dwelling on one of the streets I have mentioned, it is reached by a crazy flight of stairs, and presents the appearance of a dilapidated barn; in the two rooms to which the stairs lead lives a most respectable working woman who is supporting herself and her two little girls by going out washing and scrubbing. She is hard working, honest, quiet and a devout Christian, and she has no lack of work, being greatly in demand on account of her honesty and reliability; she earns sixty cents a day, and works usually six days in the week taking the evenings to do her own housework and washing. She thus succeeds in accumulating an income of three dollars and sixty cents a week; in housecleaning times some of her employers voluntarily pay her seventy five cents a day, and then she is wealthy indeed. Of course she gets her dinner at the houses where she works, but prefers getting home in time to give her children their tea, it possible, and sometimes the ladies give her her tea to take home, so she gets along all right. She is a cheerful soul and inclined to look on the bright side, but oh, how that woman works and how her bones must ache when she lies down at night!

"Yes, she pays two dollars a month for her two rooms, but then they are upstairs, and there fore warm—for poor folks' rooms—and the water is in the house, so it saves her a good many steps. She does not like living on that street because it is a bad place to bring up little girls, and she has often thought of moving, but then where would she get so comfortable a house for the same money? There do not seem to be any houses in town for poor folks, in a decent neighbourhood and they have to do the best they can."

Another desirable residence for the working classes consists of five rooms through which the winds of heaven roam at their own sweet will, several broken panes of glass are stuffed with rags, to keep out the cold, and the chinks around the door insure more thorough ventilation than is altogether desirable in winter. This urban villa is inhabited by a decent working man, his wife, their grown up daughter, and four small children. He is a man who is honest, respectable, and so industrious that he is willing to work eighteen hours a day if he can get the work to do. He has not always been quite a common laborer but

used to earn good wages and live in a good house.

"This house is kind of cold, but not so cold as some; lots of people he knows live in houses so bad that you might most as well set your cook stove out doors as try to heat them, but there does not seem to be a place a poor man can get that is fit to live in. He paid two and a half a month, and that was cheap for as large a house; lots of folks paid three and three and a half for places that were smaller and no more comfortable."

These are two instances selected at random, of respectable laboring people. Of the other classes, the very poor, and the miserable, shiftless, begging community which is represented in every city the size of Moncton, their inhabitants are of it possible just a little worse, just a little more unfit for human habitation.

Now as none of these buildings would sell for more than a hundred dollars, to put just a very fancy price on them and as some of the larger ones contain three and four families, it will be seen that the owners all drawing a rate of interest on their investments which many capitalists might well envy—from twenty-five to thirty-six per cent, allowing a margin for taxes, on the single houses, and something over fifty on the larger tenements.

If there is any surplus philanthropy seeking for a measure of expression in Moncton, a good way to employ it would be in either clearing out the rookeries which are an eyesore to respectable people and building some decent cottages for working men in their places; or else employing some of that waste land at the head of Pearl and Orange streets which was suggested as an eligible site for the now defunct Jubilee park, and erecting a square composed of homes for working people. Four roomed cottages would do, as few working men aspire to more than a kitchen, parlor and two bedrooms in their homes, and as such houses could be readily built for two hundred and fifty dollars each, and rented for three dollars per month, the scheme would pay very well.

If no one else will take the matter in hand, the city might do so, and thus turn an honest penny into the civic treasury. For that matter there is nothing to prevent our city fathers from expropriating the property mentioned, on Telegraph and Orange street, paying the owners a certain sum, and erecting decent houses on the ground where the shanties now stand. The valuable property of the Moncton Gas and Water company was ruthlessly expropriated without the least consideration for the feeling of its owners, and there is no reason why other property holders should be treated with more consideration. It would be quite a fitting, and most inexpensive jubilee memorial, and quite as practicable as many of the suggestions made last summer.

The subject is one worthy of careful consideration and it is to be hoped that some action will be taken before long to make the home life of the Moncton labouring man a little more comfortable, and give him a chance of bringing up his family respectably. It is bad for those who are bodily vigorous to be subjected to such hardships, but the thought of what those who are not only poor, but sick also, must undergo during the heat of summer and the bitter cold of winter, is enough to make any human person shudder.

A Library to Itself.

Few people are able to buy as many books as they would like, yet it is possible without them to keep in touch with all the leaders of literature, as well as to follow the world's progress in every department of science and industry. The Youth's Companion already provides the means for more than half a million households—at an expense to each of \$1.75 a year. Every issue of The Companion gives as much reading matter as a 12mo book of 175 pages, and The Companion comes every week. The quality of its contents is shown by the announcement for 1898 which promises contributions next year from the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Rudyard Kipling, Speaker Reed, Capt. A. T. Mahon, Mary F. Wilkins, W. D. Howells, Lieutenant Peary, the Marquis of Dufferin, Senator Hoar, Justin McCarthy and more than two hundred other eminent men and women.

All new subscribers for 1898 will receive The Companion's gold-embossed calendar, beautifully printed in twelve colors, and the paper will also be sent free from the time the subscription is received until January, 1898 and then for a full year to January, 1899. A handsome illustrated prospectus of the volume for 1898 will be sent to any one addressing THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, 205 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.

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EXTREME NERVOUSNESS.

FREQUENTLY BRINGS ITS VICTIM TO THE VERGE OF INSANITY.

The Case of a Young Lady in Smith's Falls Who Suffered Severely—Given up by Two Doctors—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Have Restored her Health.

From the Smith's Falls News.

Many cases have been reported of how invalids who have suffered for years and whose case had been given up by the attending physician, have been restored to health and vigor through that now world-famed medicine, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, but we doubt if there is one more startling or more convincing than that of Miss Elizabeth Minshull, who resides with her brother, Mr. Thos. Minshull, of this town an employee in Frost & Wood's Agricultural Works. The News heard of this remarkable case, and meeting Mr. Minshull asked him if the story was correct. He replied: "All I know is that my sister had been given up as incurable by two physicians. She is now well enough to do any kind of housework and can come and go as she pleases, and this change has, it is my honest conviction, been brought about by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Mr. Minshull then related the following story to the News:—"My sister is twenty years of age. She came to Canada from England about ten years ago, and resided with a Baptist minister, Rev. Mr. Cody, at Sorel, Que. In April, of 1896, she took ill and gradually grew worse. She was under a local physician's care for over five months. The doctor said that she was suffering from a complication of nervous diseases, and that he could do little for her. The minister with whom she lived then wrote me of my sister's state of health, and I had her come to Smith's Falls, in the hope that a change and rest would do her good. When she arrived here she was in a very weak state and a local physician was called in to see her. He attended her for some time, but with poor results, and finally acknowledged that the case was one which he could do very little for. My sister had by this time become a pitiable object; the slightest noise would disturb her, and the slightest exertion would almost make her insane. It required someone to be with her at all times, and often after a fit of extreme nervousness she would become unconscious and remain in that state for hours. When I went home I had to take my boots off at the door-step so as not to disturb her. I consulted with my wife, who had great faith in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, as she knew of several cases where they had worked wonderful cures, and I concluded it would do no harm to try them anyway, and mentioned the fact to the doctor. The doctor did not oppose their use, but said he thought they might do her good, as they were certainly a good medicine. In September of last year she began to use the Pills and before two boxes had been used, she began to show signs of improvement. She has continued their use since and is to-day a living testimony of the curative power of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills." Mr. Minshull has no hesitation in sounding the praises of a remedy that has worked such a change in the health of his sister and cheerfully gave the "News" the above particulars, and when asked to do so most willingly signed the following declaration:—

SMITH'S FALLS, Sept. 11th, 1897.
I hereby make the declaration that the statements in above as to the condition of my sister, and the benefit she received from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are absolutely correct.

THOS. MINSHULL.

Witness, J. H. Ross.

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

WANTED Old established wholesale House wants one or two honest and industrious representatives for this section. Can pay a hustler about \$12.00 a week to start with. DRAWER 28, Brantford, Ont.

WANTED Young men and women to help in the Armenian cause. Good pay. Will send copy of my little book, "Your Place in Life," free, to any who write. Rev. T. S. Linscott, Brantford, Ont.

WANTED RELIABLE MERCHANTS in each town to handle our water-proof Cold Water Paint. Five million pounds sold in United States last year. VICTOR KOFOD, 49 Francis Xavier, Montreal.

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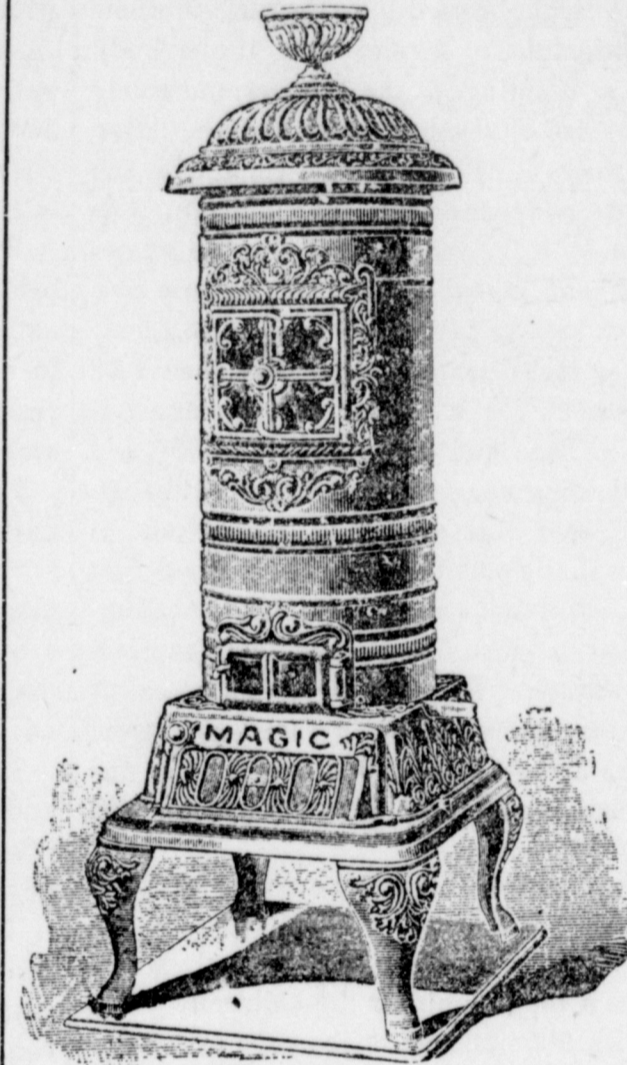
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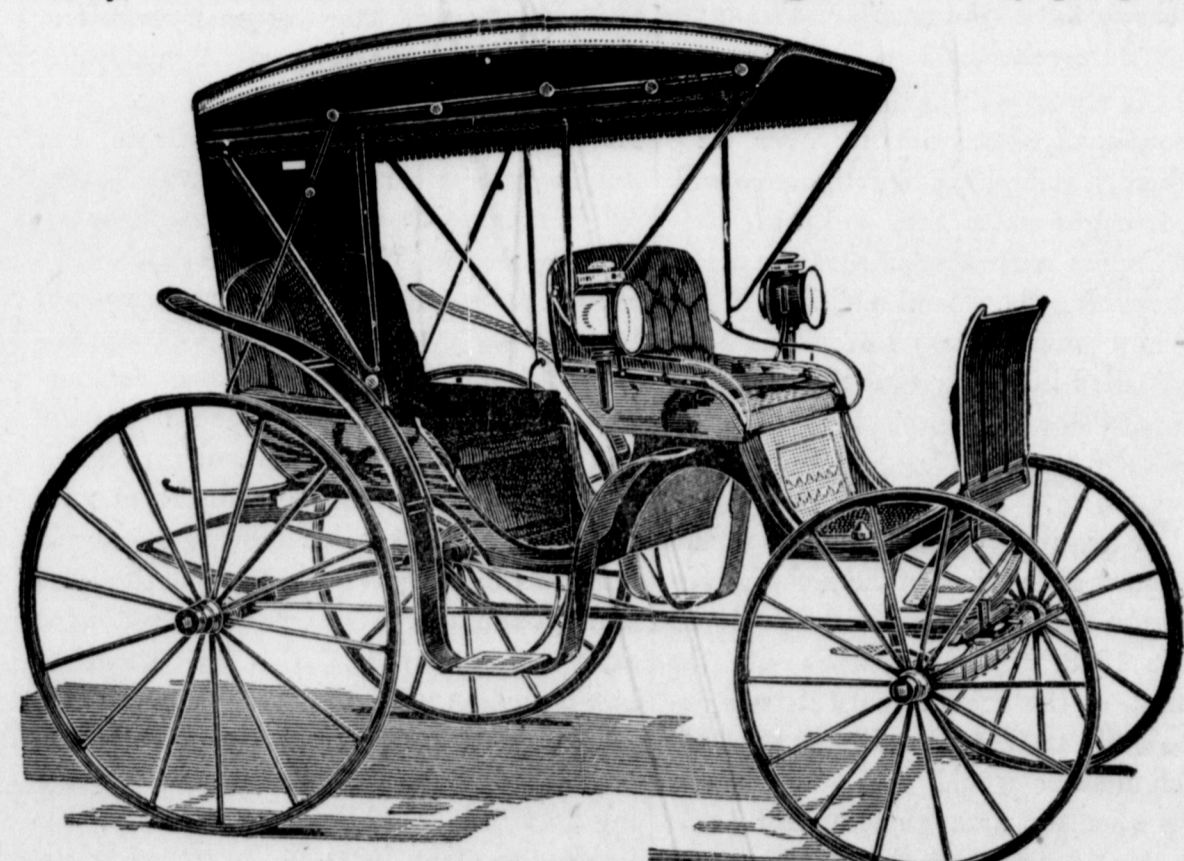
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