

SHADES OF CITY LIFE

BREEZY PARAGRAPHS OF ORDINARY HAPPENINGS.

Notes on the Visit of the Right Honorable Sir Wilfred Laurier K. C. M. G.—The Premier's Wonderful Personality Conquers St. John as it Conquered Europe.

The people would fain have said—Linger Longer Laurier.

Canada would be sorrier If she had not Laurier! With Laurier out Out laury her lot!

Is Union street, Carleton, going to slide into the harbor? That is the question. The authorities say it will not and it is to be hoped that their prediction will come true.

People would like to have heard the great Tarte whose fame partakes more of the nature of notoriety perhaps than real distinction. But he opened not his lips. They say that he knows how to pick out the plums. But then where else should the plums go but to the tart.

And by the way, there is one thing noticeable about leading Salvation Army officers. They are almost without exception, that is the men, distinguished by strong square chins and full mobile features that respond readily to changes of emotion.

The Booth family is one of the greatest teams in the world. We have had Papa Booth and various other Booths here and this week we had his daughter Eva. She has zeal and courage, has been through all sorts of experience in the progress of her work of carrying out the central thought of the Holy Book of helping her brothers.

There were no less than thirty or thirty-five legislators attending ceremonies in connection with the opening of the exhibition on Tuesday, about equally divided between members of the Dominion and provincial houses and among them there was a good sprinkling of honourables.

There is some talk of the Ancients coming here for their annual fall outing. There will be "a hot time in the old town" if they come after their conquests in old England. These New England pioneers of bon vivants will expect much in the way of entertainment.

It is good to be a premier. It seems to give unlimited osculatory privileges. Sir Wilfrid while here was presented with bouquets by Misses Maysie Willis, Faith Hayward, Emily McAvity and Daisy Sears and in all cases Sir Wilfrid was not satisfied with the bouquet but also claimed a kiss as well.

A fact that well exemplifies the wonderful power of influence is the manner in which people who associate much together begin to resemble one another in a more or less degree. This is especially true in the case of man and wife, and instances are numerous when, after some years, if they are at all congenial, they begin to look like each other and in tastes and manner become very similar.

It is quite noticeable and is a very good illustration of the law of environment.

The beauty of our school system is shown in the fact that nowadays there is no one without education. Every child goes to school and every family has a newspaper. There are, so Chairman Trueman of the Board of school Trustees told the Premier over 6000 children in the city schools which shows up well in comparison with the city's population of about 40,000.

At last Saturday's meeting of the Council the aldermen indulged in some pleasant banter in regard to the political proclivities of the tide of St. John harbor. They were talking about the excursion to be given the Premier about the harbor and through the falls. One alderman asked if the tide would serve. "Of course it will," said the Mayor; it has got to serve for the premier.

But it would seem to me that it is muggump, because it leans both ways and part of the time it is on the fence.

ANTONIO.

SCOTTISH SUPERSTITIONS.

Queer Beliefs that Survive in Galloway and Make Life Picturesque.

As might be expected in such a district as Galloway, which, till a late period, was so remote from external influences, and which had such a marked individuality, the list of its local customs and beliefs is a long one. Let us take, first of all, those relating to times and seasons. We find, at the outset, a statement about February weather; 'If Feberweer be fair an' clear, There'll be twa winters in the year.'

On New Year's eve, which bears the wide spread name Hogmanay, the fire was banked up with special care, for ill luck came to the house when out and to those who gave a turf next morning to light it again. Lucifer matches, at any rate have been a safeguard to neighbours. In fact on New's Day you must neither sell, nor lend, nor give, outside the house, which obviously, is not the sentiment of our neighbours across the Channel; but inside its head formally presented some food and drink to all its inmates early in the morning, and even gave a little grain to his horses and cattle.

The moon was the centre of a number of fancies. A hen should be set when it is waxing; the new moon, when seen for the first time, can help a girl to the name of her future husband; it will bring a wish to pass if you turn the money thrice in your pocket; but ill luck comes if you look at it through a window. All these beliefs are widespread. That a man should not build a house for himself was believed in Galloway, as elsewhere, and those who quitted a house showed their good will by not cleaning it up, for this 'took away the luck.'

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In fear, and evil must not be spoken against them, for as a proverb goes 'It is unlucky to middle with craws and ministers.' 'Holed' stones were potent amulets for cattle, but the virtues of these are known to other parts of Britain. After a cow had calved its back was sprinkled with salt or oatmeal. The first milk it gave afterward went by the name of beesman (in the English Midlands beestings,) and was used for various special purposes.

Crowing hens were deemed objectionable as whistling lasses, and even a cock might not utter his natural notes at untimely hours for ill would come of it—a belief often verified when fowls are kept in towns. But if a cock reaches the age of seven years he becomes a dangerous fowl, for then he lays an egg and from this is hatched a cockatrice. That, too, was a very widespread notion. A cock is said to have been solemnly tried and condemned at Basle in the middle ages for this heinous crime.

Snake stones can be found and bring good fortune, and a spell can be laid on the adder. If you try to kill one and it escapes the respite is brief, for you can make a 'tryst' to meet it next day at a fixed hour and place, and it is bound to keep the appointment. In one place they believe that wasps do not sting in September. The saying, 'many haws, many snaws,' expresses what is generally believed further south, and other trees have their significance, especially the elder and the rowan, the last being a potent specific against witchcraft.

Birth, marriage, and death have each their own customs and superstitions. As regards the second, there are many don'ts—though not to the extent of the well-known advice—'Don't meet a funeral or have the brides cake chipped, or meet after the banns have been proclaimed, or hear your own banns read, or enter the house after the wedding, till the minister has gone in, or let him shake hands with either till the knot is tied. The bride also, should not try on her wedding dress, when once it is finished nor should her mother witness the ceremony.

Portents of death are much the same in Galloway as in other places, and so also are many of the customs such as opening doors and windows, putting salt on the breast of the corpse, offering refreshments at the funeral, together with a host of superstitions about suicides, drowned folk, and the like.—N. Y. Sun.

A Meaning Distinction

Wickwire—That is a rocky-looking umbrella you are carrying, Mudge. Is it the best you can buy? Mudge—It is the best I could get.

Saved.

Sprockett—I was proposing to her when she told me that her father had failed. Wheeler—What did you do? Sprockett—I back-pedalled.

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Ethel—Maud has been trying to learn how to ride a bicycle for four weeks now. Penelope—Is her instructor stupid? Ethel—No—handsome.

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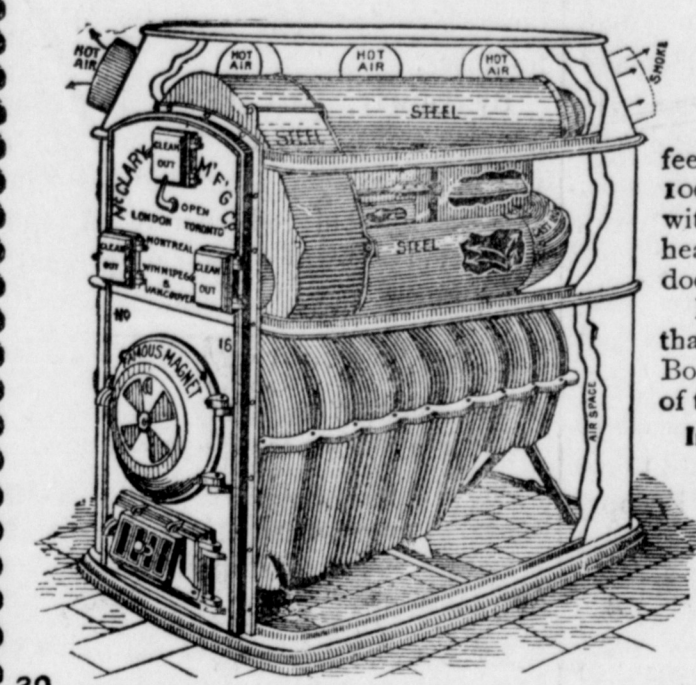
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