

# PROGRESS.

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## AN OLD STORY REVIVED.

ST. JOHN HAPPENING AS TOLD BY A NEW YORK PAPER.

It Tells in a Highly Colored Way an Event in the Life of a St. John Actress—Mr. James K. Hackett the Main Actor—Figures the Story Too.

A former St. John lady whose home is now in New York sends this week to PROGRESS a copy of the New York Evening Sun of December 21st which contains the story of Miss Ethel Knight Molison's memorable venture as a play-wright. In the main the story is correct enough only in writing it Mr. James K. Hackett paid more attention to coloring it up in crimson Christmas shades, than he did to truth in the matter of detail.

The story starts out in this way:

"How was this for revenge? There is an actress now playing on Broadway, in a play which was one of the great successes of last season, who some years ago was living in her old home at St. John, N. B. At that time she had no thought of going on the stage in a professional way, for she was engaged to marry the son of a man who was probably the richest man in the city.

"But the sisters of the young man did not approve of the match. They did all in their power to break off the match, and finally the obedient son went to the actress that was to be and told her that it would be better for her and best for himself from that moment if their paths in life separated at an acute angle. The girl released him with the greatest pleasure, so she said, and in a week's time most of the townspeople had forgotten all about the affair. But not so the young woman. She was doing a deal of thinking. Nearly every summer it happens that a "snap" company made up of pretty fair actors, goes to the Maritime Provinces and divides its times between Halifax and St. John. The following summer one came as usual, but the town failed to respond with its usual alacrity for nearly all the plays in the company's repertory had been seen before.

Finally, one morning, a young woman called at the theatre and remarked to the manager; "What you people want is a new play. I've got it. I wrote it. It will score a bit beyond any doubt, and you can have it if you like, on one condition. You must let me play the leading role."

"The manager looked dazed for a moment and then remarked that he had a leading woman of his own, but after a little more talk he waived the rights of his leading woman and entered into the scheme with positive enthusiasm.

"Next day the fences of the town blossomed out with the announcement that on the following Monday would be produced a new play called "The Mischievous Miss," "by a local playwright," and that a well-known St. John belle would play the leading role.

Then the Sun goes on to give the plot of the play and to tell of the sensation it caused. The brilliant audience, the tiers of boxes filled with the elite of the city, the diamond decked women, the flowers, the lights and the music are talked about in a way that would make the swiftest New York playhouse get green all over with envy, and St. John's cosy opera house unrecognizable by its very best patrons. Nobody is likely to make a fuss though; for it isn't that people or things get so highly excited, and besides the exclusive Gothamites when they read the article will realize at last that we know a thing or two down here after all. Then the article goes on: "To say that this play raised a sensation is putting it mildly. After the second act one of the parties retired from its box in short order and high dudgeon, and before the end of the piece at least a dozen dowagers had left the theatre owing all sorts of legal proceedings against the saucy young mix who had dared to parade their pet foibles and peculiarities. With one fell swoop this young woman had wiped out every score that she had ever had, and although "The Mischievous Miss" was produced more than six years ago, to this very day the good citizens of St. John never speak of it without a shudder."

The closing paragraph is perhaps the funniest of all but as PROGRESS does not care to unnecessarily wound the feelings of anyone it is omitted. The writer gets tangled up somewhat in his statements, but perhaps New York society will be none the wiser. The story is evidently written with the intention of enhancing Mr. Hackett's

attractions in the eyes of the matinee girl, but just the same the fool killer and a coroner ought to find a nice easy job about Mr. Hackett's size in New York.

**WANT TO DRIVE THEM OUT.**  
That is the Suggestion Made About the Disreputable Resorts.

That bill for four dollars that Police Clerk Henderson paid Mr. Driscoll for the use of his bus in taking half a dozen policemen out to Mrs. Melvin's, was ordered paid at the meeting of the treasury board this week, but it was the cause of a discussion of a much wider and more important range.

The fine, or rather the forfeit of \$100, it appears, had been handed over to the city and that is the only reason the bill was paid.

But while waiting for a quorum some one raised the question, if there was not enough work of that sort—raising disreputable houses—to do in the city without going out into the country, and from the expressions of opinion given, there is no doubt some of the aldermen feel very strongly upon the point.

It was said that the chief officials were of the opinion that such resorts were necessary in every large community and especially in a seaport town but this was scouted by one gentleman who declared that in his opinion the revenue they contributed to the police office and license fund was the only reason they existed.

The effect upon neighboring properties was discussed and the chamberlain is authority for the statement that those who reside in the near vicinity as well as those who own property that is idle complain a great deal of the disadvantage such resorts are to them, of the depreciation to their property as well as the annoyances to which they are subjected. Those who collected the taxes were in a better position to know about these things than those who never came in contact with the property owners. "But is it not better," asked an alderman "if these resorts must exist, as the officials say, that they should be confined to one or two streets and not scattered all over the city?"

"No, no," said another. "drive them away from the town. Make them all go outside the county line."

"It can't be done," retorted another alderman.

"It can be done if we had a police force that would do its duty. Give me good men and I will undertake to drive them out."

"These disreputable places are doing tremendous harm to the boys of the town," said a gentleman who seemed to have gathered much information upon the subject. "I do not speak of the effect upon men of mature years but of the young boys who do not earn more than enough to pay their board and who may be seen wending their way in groups down to these disreputable places."

At this moment some other members of the board arrived and the chairman called the members to order. The discussion however was useful as showing the strong opinions of some of the aldermen upon the subject.

**NORTH ENDERS DISAGREE.**  
The Members of the Salvage Corps Have Differences.

The North End Salvage Corps is only seven months old but it has the distinction of having one of the best and out "internal" troubles of any of the local fire departments for many years. The statistics of the unpleasantness so far include three suspended members; one, the driver of the S. C. fire wagon, a dignified captain and a corps of members "soured" either in the Captain's behalf or for the best interests of the men under the ban of that official. The bad feeling which has recently become so evident within the ranks of the chattel slaves, is not of recent origin. Its source it is said can be traced as far back as last July first, Dominion day, when the new Salvage Corps held an unsuccessful excursion up river. It was here Captain Phillip Hamm and ordinary fireman John Chesley had a dispute, which resulted in the latter's temporary suspension. A sort of ill-feeling was given birth then which has rankled in both Captain and men ever since. It broke out again about two weeks ago when Jordan Jones, a member "was laid off" for awhile being forbidden the glorious privilege of hitting a piano or other furniture in case a big fire should happen during the term of his banishment from the Corps' quarters. Finally last Saturday night Mr.

Chesley whose term of exile had long since been up, accompanied by a number of his "citizen guests" Mr. Jones, the eleven Corps apartments shortly after sharp o'clock. The hour of closing is eleven and Captain Hamm says he always endeavored to have this rule adhered to. Driver Hazen Brown was in charge and the three men were sitting in the engine house chatting in a Merry Christmas vein when Capt. Hamm's profile loomed up at the door window. He entered the wagon hall and asked if it was not a late and improper hour for such a free and easy meeting, and furthermore if it was the proper thing for a suspended man to presume to throw aside official commands and enter the building when under suspension. Some pretty warm words followed, Mr. Chesley claiming that Mr. Jones was his guest but this Capt. Hamm refused to recognize.

Then Driver Brown came in for a roast. He was roundly brought to task for keeping "open house" after hours and suddenly remembering that it was after eleven o'clock, ordered all hands out including the Captain himself. He was "cock of the walk" so to speak and all at once realized that upon him devolved the duty of closing up the Corps rooms for the night. Naturally Captain Hamm's dignity was considerably rattled at being ordered from the premises.

He refused to go, so Driver Brown turned the key in the door and went to bed. The irate official to all appearances was in for a "watch night service" all by himself, but after a moments reflection he thought of the big doors—They were sprung open and having thus freed himself Capt. Hamm went upstairs and leaning over Brown in bed, ordered him to get up dress and leave the building—a very informal dismissal. Brown refused and a policeman was called. After "viewing the remains" for a few moments the brass button man thought it outside his power to eject Brown, so both he and the Captain departed. Another driver was procured and he sat all night, while Brown dreamed dreams of Santa Clans and a stocking full of toy policemen etc. And he's working yet.

At a meeting of the Corps held to take action on Capt Hamm's dismissal of Brown, the members decided to let the Safety Board settle it. There is a serious split in the Corps on account of the incident and rumors of doing away with the N. E. S. salvage organization and using the new wagon for a police patrol are already rife.

Capt. Hamm and his supporters want to know who's boss and they say this case is to be a test of the question.

**Delayed Announcement.**

West side circles are greatly exercised over a marriage which took place some time ago, and of which no announcement has as yet reached the friends of the contracting parties. The couple have never lived together since the marriage occurred the general opinion being that the religious differences have had something to do with the unusual state of affairs. It is said that one of the principals denies the rumor of a marriage but it is pretty positively known that it was duly solemnized, and now the friends of both parties are only awaiting the usual announcement to extend congratulations.

**Appropriate Presentation.**

The presentations of the year do not seem to be over yet for one evening this week at the Dufferin a few friends of William Keefe presented him with an appropriate remembrance in the shape of a pair of Military hair brushes, ebony backed and inlaid with silver. The recipient of the gift showed his appreciation of the kindly feeling toward him that prompted it in a very happy way. His assistant, William Fitzpatrick, was also remembered and given a handsome pair of gold and carbuncle cuff links.

**Sudden Death of William Dalton.**

The sudden death of William Dalton of the North End could hardly be credited when the news reached the city Wednesday afternoon. While not in robust health he was around as usual on the day of his death but hemorrhages of the stomach do not give a man much chance of life and these caused his death. He was well known and well liked and many of those who knew him paid their last tribute of respect at his funeral yesterday.

Fancy Goods, Games, Toys, Dolls and Annals, Lough, Brown at McArthur's Book Store, 96 King Street.

## FUNNY ITEMS PAID FOR

THE TREASURY BOARD PASSES MANY ACCOUNTS.

And Among the Items of Which They are Made up are Some Funny Things—Fly-paper, Anodyne Liniment, are Paid by the City.

There were some queer items among the thousands of dollars worth of bills that were passed at the meeting of the treasury board this week. There are many things mentioned in the itemized accounts that even old and experienced auditors could not explain off hand. Perhaps the most frequent charge was that for abolishing removing shoes from horses, and judgment from the many different people who sent in accounts for work of this nature the patronage of the city seems to be pretty well distributed. But it sounded funny to hear the chairman reading off so much for shoeing "Bill", "Dick", "Tom", and "Harry". These of course were the names of the horses and perhaps it is just as well that the bills were made more particular in this way.

There was one charge for "gall" and when this was read out a very audible smile passed around the room. Why the chairman of any of the departments or the directors or any of the officials should be under the necessity of buying gall was not very clear to the aldermen who were considering the bills, still they were all in a Christmas mood, not very critical and disposed to pass anything that was nearly correct. It was noticeable, however, that the city merchants who had supplied the city, had different ideas of the value of the some articles purchased. One charged \$2.65 for a keg of spikes and another almost at the same time charged \$2.50. Little things like that indicate that the city in the long run would be very much better off if they had the services of an auditor who was competent to check the bills and know the correct prices.

One of the items that occasioned some surprise was a charge of \$12.75 for flower seeds. The aldermen seemed to be under the impression that the Horticultural Association was, with the assistance of the city, doing all the work of that nature, but the information was vouchsafed that the city still had charge of the Haymarket Square and that these seeds were perhaps used for that public ground. A few might have sown in the little garden in front of the police building but that too seems to be a matter of doubt. Anyway the item passed and the next surprise came in the shape of one dozen bottles of Johnstone's Anodyne Liniment. This was probably used in the city stables but the board seemed to think that it was a considerable quantity to use on horses. The charge for foot pads was of course for the stables but one for velvet brooms suggested the remark from one of the aldermen that there was no doubt about the luxuriousness of the city since they were using velvet brooms. Mrs. Washington sent in a bill for a lunch furnished at the order of chief of police, and the committee did not stop to inquire whether it was for the chief or for a prisoner. Whoever ate it no doubt enjoyed it and their's was the privilege to pay for it.

Some time ago when the gas bill came in for the new salvage corps room in the North End, there was considerable kicking. The bill was so much larger than for the same kind of a room in the South End that it was difficult to explain the difference, but the cat was out of the bag when among the accounts was one from Messrs. Emerson & Fisher for a gas stove for the salvage corps room in North End. Who ordered the stove was not stated and so this account was laid aside until some explanation in connection with it could be obtained. There were charges for insect powder, moth balls, fly paper sent by the order of the chief of police to the police offices. The insect powder no doubt could be used to advantage from time to time in the cells but the item of fly paper provoked some merriment and brought out the remark that with a plentiful supply of that in the station there should be no flies on the force. A bill of Mr. D. V. D. Connel in connection with coaching in a shop lifting case was laid aside, the aldermen thinking that it was no part of the city's duty to pay such a bill. But another item of a hatchet for the mayor's office came as a surprise to Chairman Robinson and Alderman Christie, one of whom remarked that

after this he would have to be careful how he approached his worship. Perhaps the most surprising to all the charges was the last one that was passed—for mustard. Even the doctors on the board could not imagine just what use the city would have for such an article, but as was stated before all the bills with one or two slight exceptions went through with a rush. There was considerable discussion about the arbitrator's account of some \$12,000, but that too passed and the gentlemen who have considered the claims against the city with no doubt be made happy with New Year's cheques. The chamberlain remarked incidentally when he stated that the \$100 fine or forfeit taken in the police office from Mrs. Melvin had been handed over to the city that the magistrate had squared up for the month of November.

**PROPOSED MARKET.**

Halifax is Behind the Age.

The agitation

HALIFAX, Dec. 29th has again for a public market in this city. It has been revived, but the prospects for the present time for getting one, are just far off as ever. Every now and again this scheme is brought before the public, and for a time some interest is taken in it, but after a while it is allowed to drop, as no person cares about pushing it. This time the mover in the matter was Ald. Faulkner, who at a meeting of the city council, said this city was far behind the times in this respect. We should have a public market he said, and one that would be a credit to the city. The idea for the moment caught the other aldermen and several of them expressed the opinion that some immediate steps should be taken to further the scheme. It was agreed upon there and then, that a committee should be appointed to select a site, and if possible the probable cost of the same. The mayor was invested with the power to name the members of the committee, and of course the opportunity was a grand one for him to place thereon just who he pleased. The committee has not yet presented its report but it is expected that it will before very long. One of the sites spoken of is bounded by Grafton, Altemarle, Duke and Buckingham streets. In this block the Mayor and Ald. O'Donnell are very much interested, and it would be much to their advantage if it was finally selected as the market site. Both of them own a very large amount of property there, and if the council, saw its way clear to expropriate it, they would both receive good prices for it without a doubt. The site however is not very favorably looked upon, and it is very doubtful if it will be the one selected. The mayor has not very much to say about the matter, but the alderman has opposed considerably about it. He is opposed to the scheme, so he says, by the way, but that is very unlikely. He will so it is given out, strongly oppose the whole affair when it again reaches the council. Perhaps he thinks that is the best plan he can pursue as everything he opposes is always sure to be adopted. There are other sites that are better adapted for a market, and far more easily accessible. The citizens however do not want a market, and public opinion generally is opposed to it. There are markets enough in the city at the present time, and some of them are tumbling down for the want of looking after. The owners cannot derive sufficient revenue from them to keep the places in proper repair. It has been said that the folks who sell their goods at the "green market" would patronize an institution of this kind, but many are of an adverse opinion as experiences in the past have shown. Considerable interest has been taken in the scheme not from the standpoint of a public market, but the outcome of the transaction. The name of the committee who have been obtaining the desired information have not as yet been given out. Several of the aldermen who were strongly in favor of a public market a short time ago, have since changed their opinions, as they think the city can get along without increasing this unnecessary expense at the present time. There might however be a "deal" if everything goes well, so it is advisable for the controlling body to go slowly.

**To Return For Three Weeks.**

Theatre goers will be glad to hear that the Paul Caseneuve company will return to the Opera house here on January 9th to play a three weeks engagement. Mr. Caseneuve is an excellent actor with good support and the plays he produces are all standard metropolitan successes.