

A CYCLE RIDER'S SPORT.

HE PLAYS UPON THE AFFECTIONS OF A HALIFAX BLONDE.

And not Satisfied With her Cash Takes her Diamonds—Love Conquers all However, and she Refused to Prosecute Mr. Mosher the Tricky Cyclist.

HALIFAX, July 19.—Harry Mosher, a trick bicycle rider, who performed at the Lyceum theatre in this city, has got himself into difficulties, which no doubt will take him some time to get out of. He was one of a number of performers who came here several weeks ago for a short engagement at the Lyceum. He is quite an expert on the wheel, and he pleased many audiences during his short sojourn. Almost every afternoon Mosher visited Point Pleasant park on his wheel, and gave free performances before quite a gathering. Among the number that usually congregated was one of those sweet smiling "beauties," with bleached blonde hair, and the two soon formed an acquaintance. She became smitten with his charms, and they were frequently seen together.

It could not have been his good looks that caught her fancy, as he was anything but prepossessing, so the only conclusion that can be reached is that it must have been his winning ways. After concluding his engagement at the theatre, he took up his residence with this woman, and the two lived in harmony for several days. He gave her to understand that he was going to permanently reside here, and that he had engaged the exhibition building to give performances in.

He intended to teach her how to master the wheel, and the two would perform together. She accepted all this in good faith, and when his cash ran short she supplied him with the necessary change that he required to keep up his end with the boys. He also promised to marry her, and the ceremony was to have been performed on Tuesday evening, and she was having her trousseau prepared for the event. The very thought of her name, Miss May Bennett—being changed to that of Mrs. Mosher was a most delightful one, and the auburn haired cyclist was again recuperated with more cash. On Monday morning Mosher arose somewhat earlier than usual, and after securing what cash he could find, and a diamond ring, he rode rapidly to North street station on his wheel, purchased a ticket for Yarmouth and jumped on the D. & R. train in company with several other Lyceum performers who were on their way to Boston. The female at once realized that she had been victimized, and reported the loss to the chief of police. A message over the wires travelled much faster than the train could, so when the fleeing cyclist arrived in Yarmouth a couple of police officers were in waiting for him. He protested his innocence, but that did not prevent his being locked up, till an officer arrived from this city to bring him back.

On his return the female was given permission to see him, and finally she agreed not to prosecute him. She was as good as her word however, and when the case was called she failed to appear in court and he was let out. The terms of the agreement were that he was to marry her, if she did not prosecute him. Mosher is a married man and has a wife and family in Boston. He is a Haligonian by birth, and has several relatives in this city. May Bennett is only the female's stage name. Her proper name is Janie Burns and she hails from Maine.

TOOK THE TOWN BY STORM.

Main's Circus on the Streets of Halifax on Sunday Last.

HALIFAX, July 20.—The quiet and peace of this good old city was very much disturbed by the arrival of Main's circus on last Sunday. It struck the town about 10 o'clock a. m. just as the church bells were loudly pealing forth, and from that hour on to midnight everything was turned into a hustle, from the freight yard to the show grounds on the common. It did not take the news long to spread that the circus had arrived, and an hour afterwards hundreds of persons were at the scene watching the operations. Very few thought that the circus people would be allowed to remove their paraphernalia on the Sabbath but as the unexpected often happens such was the case this time.

Those travelling with a circus are not bothered very much by the Sabbath, and the teams of horses were soon hitched up,

and on their way through the streets with the heavy wagons, making more noise than has been heard hereabouts for a long time. On the common, the scene was an extremely busy one, hundreds of men being engaged at work driving stakes and erecting the tents.

Sunday school children forgot where they were sent, and made their way to the common and watched the operation all the afternoon, and in consequence there were many poorly filled classes in the Sunday school. In fact it was a centre of attraction, both for young and old, as the transformation came about so quickly. Many were very indignant at the city authorities allowing the circus to remove their stock on Sunday, and frequent expressions were heard in loud denunciation of them. Several of the clergy spoke about it, and remarked that the like was never known before. No one appeared responsible for the act, and no person could be found who had given them permission to go ahead. The circus people seemed to do pretty much as they pleased, without any interference on the part of the authorities whatever. They took complete charge of the common, and the only strange thing about it was that they did not perform on Sunday night.

Only a year ago there was a great uproar over the same thing. The manager of a circus which intended to show here on Monday asked permission to remove to the common on Sunday, but was given a point blank refusal, and strict precautions were taken that he should not do so either. No person ever thought for a moment that Main's show would even attempt such a thing, but in face of all previous refusals the circus people went ahead with their work, and completed it to the latter.

The good living people of this city were simply astonished at the authorities permitting what they styled an outrageous act, to be perpetrated right under their very eyes.

The civic finances however were increased considerably by the appearance of the show \$200 having been paid for a license, with \$50 additional for water. This no doubt had an influencing effect, and may have had something to do with letting them down as easy as possible.

CLOSE YOUR BEER SHOP SUNDAY.

Magistrate Ritchie is Resolved to Improve the Tone of St. John's Sabbath.

Picnics are the order of the day and Magistrate Ritchie is having a fairly continuous one with those who are reported for violating the Sabbath day. He delivered judgment in the cigar cases, and imposed the fine. An appeal will be taken and the question may be decided as to what is and what is not servile labor. More may depend upon the decision than seems apparent at the first glance. If against the cigar men then it will be unlawful to sell or hire anything on the Lord's day. The cigar dealers are fighting the battle for a lot of people who are interested in what will be lawful or unlawful on the Sabbath day.

But there is one pleasing feature of the case that must not be overlooked and that is the good opportunity such cases afford the magistrate to deliver those amusing and wholesome homilies for which he has such a gift. Portions of these five minute lectures appear from time to time in the daily press and the people are no doubt impressed in a becoming way. That case a few days ago, when one woman called another nasty names, or at least the other woman said she did, and took her up in the court just to show what a bad tongue she had, gave his honor a new topic for a lecture and it was a rich one. He ridiculed the idea of people being so sensitive and spoke of the hard names he had been called and how little he minded them, and then he said he had even heard people say "to h—l with the pope" but he did not mind if people chose to use such language!

Now such a morning's deliverance as that must be entertaining and if there was any certainty as to when the magistrate was in the humor he would no doubt have an appreciative audience. Just now he is bent upon improving the moral tone of the Sabbath in St. John. The people who sell ice cream soda or plain soda with any kind of flavoring have got to beware and the 220 people who paid one dollar each for the right to sell ginger beer and ginger ale with a variety in the shape of birch or root beverages are warned that if they pull a cork on the Lord's day they will have the pleasure of contributing \$20 to the funds of the city and the liquor commissioners. The magistrate was very much

in earnest and he spoke in about these terms of what was going on.

"There seems to be some misapprehension about these beer shops. I must confess that I held the opinion with those who were in favor of the bill that the measure was a good one because I felt that there were a good many widows and other poor people whose means of livelihood were limited; and a great hardship would be inflicted upon them if anything should be done to interfere with them selling biscuits, milk, beer and such like articles usually found in small grocery stores. The license fee was accordingly made a nominal one—\$1—so that a license was within the reach of even the poorest person in the business. The law, however, does not permit the sale of temperance drinks on Sundays, although a great many good living people in this city, have expressed themselves as strongly opposed to the restriction of the sale of soda water in drug stores. Perhaps, no great harm would follow if soda water alone were sold on Sundays, but I am not so sure that something a trifle stronger than water—just a wee bit stronger, is being sold under our very noses on the Sabbath day. Now it just appears to me that if the police officers would exert themselves as diligently in hunting up these rum sellers on Sundays as they seem to be determined to prosecute cigar dealers, their efforts would be I am sure quite as heartily appreciated by the community."

Addressing Inspector Jones the magistrate inquired under what conditions was the beer license issued. Mr. Jones stated that he had been directed by the commissioners to inform all persons applying for a beer license, that the license did not permit the sale on Sundays of any of the beverages specified therein, and that if any holder did sell on Sunday he would do so on his own responsibility.

The magistrate remarked that such an intimation was very fair and no dealer now could plead ignorance of the law. Hereafter, any person charged with desecration of the Sabbath by selling beer will be fined \$20—the penalty provided under the statute.

WAS IT TELEPATHY?

It Was Something at Any Rate That the Man Couldn't Explain.

"You've had some pretty good stories lately on telepathy" said a man who is deeply interested in the subject, the other day. "I had a little incident happen me this week that proves conclusively to my mind that there is such a thing as influencing another mind by thought alone. I was up river for a few days, and when I was leaving the hospitable home where I had been entertained the hostess asked me to deliver a note to a relative of hers. The man was out of town for a day or two and so when next I saw him I forgot all about the letter in my pocket. This happened two or three times and always annoyed me very much. Last Wednesday I met the man on Charlotte street, we talked for a short time and just a moment after I left him the letter flashed into my mind. I called myself an unprintable name, because of my stupidity, and quickly turned to see how far off my friend was. Imagine my surprise when I saw him turn back; when he reached me he said "Then you did call me. I was'n't sure but I thought I heard you do so." I hadn't called him, or even mentioned his name, but what do you suppose made him think so, or how did he know I wanted to speak with him? Funny isn't it?"

Chris Nichols' Eyesight.

Chris Nichols came near getting the barbers into some trouble this week. Chris was "on duty" last Sunday looking for violators of the Sabbath and he said he saw a gentleman go into McGinley's barber shop with a dirty face and come out with a clean one. As Chris was standing on the other side of the street from the hotel office his natural eyesight must be as strong as a spy-glass. But he made a mistake just the same for the gentleman in question was shaved the night before and could prove it by a dozen witnesses. When the barbers heard this the case was quickly withdrawn and Chris is in disgrace with the Union.

The Grocer's Popular Picnic.

If Tuesday is fine a large portion of the people of the city will see the grocers safe to Watter's landing. There won't be a dearth of provisions in town but there will be a scarcity of grocers. Their picnic has become the popular outing of the season. They have chartered all the steamboats in sight and good band music will be a feature of the affair.

CAUGHT THEM NAPPING.

THE RESPECTABLE RESIDENTS OF BROAD STREET COMPLAIN

Of the Presence of a New Neighbor and the Police Comply With Their Wishes and Introduce Four Callers to the Police Station Along With the Proprietors.

PROGRESS was lamenting last week that about all the happenings that offered opportunities for the best stories occurred Friday after this journal had gone to press. And the people had not read that paragraph before there was a practical illustration of that fact. The police were busy that night and the result of their visit to the new abode of Mary Ann O'Brien were two weeping and trembling women and two men, one of whom at least, was so frightened that his usually ruddy face lost its tint. The proprietor Fred Merritt and the proprietress were included in the group but they are used to the police and their ways and the loss of their good names wasn't troubling them a bit.

PROGRESS isn't going to make any apologies for telling this story. It isn't any Sunday school tale and those who don't want to read or hear about the other side of life needn't go farther than this paragraph. The publication of the story from start to finish cannot do any harm and may serve as a warning to those who have been inquisitive regarding the exact location of the new residence of Mary Ann O'Brien.

For this woman has a new residence located on Broad street. She used to live on Duke street but a little difference in opinion between her and a neighbor forced her to change. The neighbor objected to what he saw when the blinds of her residence were not drawn and he persuaded an officer to make an investigation on the evening of the Queen's birth day. There were a few \$25 deposits made that night at the police office and the newspapers the next day surprised a lot of people by telling of the raid. People who had been in the habit of dropping in there and meeting their friends did not do so after this and the income of the house decreased to such an extent that the suffering proprietress decided to make a move. Her one idea in selecting a location seemed to be to get away as far as possible from the centre of the city. So away to the foot of Broad street she went and purchased a property that seemed to suit her ideas. It was far enough down to be almost called "the jumping off place." Still it this practical madame had only looked along the street she would have noted two churches and that charming institution for good old ladies that was quite handy to her new place of business. Then again, if she had looked in the directory she would have noted the fact that citizens of excellent standing were included among her near neighbors.

Now these citizens of good renown had no relish for their new neighbor and they soon found out that some of them, at least, were in an uncomfortable position. Many of the people who used to visit the Duke street place were not sure just where the madame had moved to and some of them were indiscreet enough to inquire of the respectable residents of the street. This was the straw that broke the back of the camel for the police were requested to make a sudden visit to the place.

And so they did last Friday night and according to the report on the book in the station and what appeared in the papers the next morning they found four people from the United States in the house. There were two men and two women. The report did not state whether the Americans were tourists or not. They must have been on a journey anyway since they went to the foot of Broad street. Of course they weren't Americans anymore than they were Hottentots. One was a citizen who has been in the wholesale business. He lives out of town but stays in over night once in a while. This was one of his evenings in town. No doubt he wished he had taken the train out of town when he found himself on the way to the police station. His companion in misfortune—the other fellow—bore his fate with stoicism. He comes to town once in a while but is here to-day and perhaps in Montreal the next morning. He hadn't any trouble raising the \$100 for himself and the woman with him but the resident had. Still he found energetic friends who succeeded even at the unseasonable hour in securing his release by making the necessary deposit.

But all of this had taken time and the women who were in the station were in a quandry where to stop all night. The lodgings in the station were not agreeable and the hour was so late that their usual abodes were closed. But compassionate spirits were at hand and after some difficulty shelter was procured for them.

Needless to say the four "Americans" did not appear the next morning and the \$200 was added to the police court funds with the fines of the people who kept the house.

The prompt action of the residents of Broad street will be approved of by all people who believe in an atmosphere of respectability about them. If, as some officials contend in this and other cities, vice in certain forms cannot be abolished in large centres, let it be under control so far at least as location is concerned. No person keeping a house of assignation has a right to locate a house where good people object. The police acted promptly and with effect.

It seems to be necessary or prudent, however, for the officials to place false names upon the report book when arrests of this sort are made. They contend that they do not do so but put down the names the prisoners give them. That, no doubt, is true, but in many cases the officers are acquainted with the right names of the parties. Perhaps it does more good than harm that this method should be in vogue. The people would not profit by the knowledge that a well known business man had been arrested for intoxication or something else the night before and public report of the fact would injure him seriously, but to a case like PROGRESS has noted above there is another side. People with vivid imaginations when they hear of a raid of that sort speculate as to who were there. Names are suggested and everybody knows a suggestion becomes a rumor and a rumor a slander. So, in this affair, the names of a score of men were mentioned in connection with the arrest of one of the parties on last Friday night while the right man was only known to a few. That does not seem to be fair nor is it so. Still as the police, in the exercise of their duty and discretion did not think it necessary to give right names, PROGRESS does not propose to depart from their precedent.

YACHTSMEN OWN THE RIVER.

And Ritchie Gives Megaphone Solos to Amazed Countrymen.

It would be hard to imagine how a half hundred men could squeeze so much real enjoyment into the time-space of ten days as the members of the Royal Kennebecas Yacht Club are doing, on the annual river cruise now taking place. They are indeed an exceedingly happy lot. Free from the numberless cares of business, social and domestic life they are having an unconventional good time and as PROGRESS saw them on Wednesday they showed every evidence of plenty of jollity and thorough enjoyment.

Of course the larger crafts such as the Canada, Thetis, Thistle, Ariel and Jubilee, led the party on almost every run, but in winds of varying strength some of the smaller ones would exhibit a little bit of their wile to the more pretentious yachts. The Dewey was the comedian boat. This will perhaps have to be explained. In the first place then Dewey is a medium sized woodboat, with the regulation "ten acre" sails and homely prow. Her crew consists of such well-known young men as Joseph Noble, Sydney Kerr, Robt. Ritchie, Louis Boyd, Jean McDiarmid, Thos. Hay and others, who, intent on making fun for the fleet as well as themselves, hit upon the idea of a clown craft. The Dewey is decorated with numerous nameplates of the "Hawker tonic" or "Sweet Caporal Cigarettes" stamp and the members of her crew are attired from morn till eve in the somewhat strange garb of pirates—the costumes worn in the "Pirates of Penzance" burlesque. To carry out the humorous aspect of this odd craft and unique crew, the men aboard conduct themselves in a most hilarious manner when in sight of appreciative spectators. They sing, spring jokes, play at naval manoeuvring and go through a pantomimic programme, much to the delight of the others. A giant megaphone aboard enables the Dewey to annihilate distance as far as speaking is concerned and frequently the unanimous applause of the various crews to one of Mate Ritchie's megaphone solos; sung a half mile away, cannot be heard by the singer. It a vote were to be taken as to which is the most popular craft in the cruising squadron it would undoubtedly result in the Dewey's favor.