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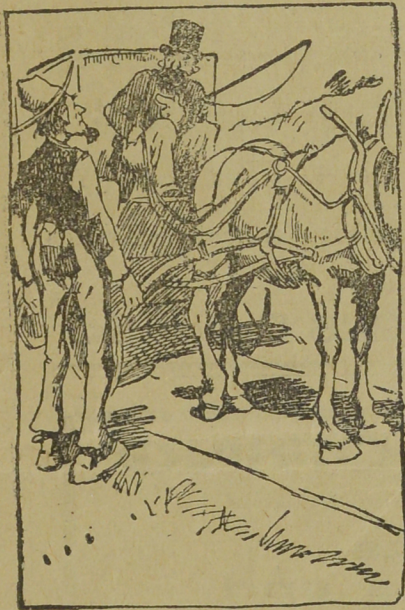
PRICE . 35c.

Told In Jericho

Pap Perkins, Postmaster, Tells About a Tin Peddler and a Church Bell.

THE first meeting house built in Jericho had got along for five years without a bell when a tin peddler came along and had a talk with Deacon Sparrow and Uriah Goodspeed and others and got them excited over the subject.

"I'm telling you," said the peddler, "that nothing makes me feel so much like telling the truth and leaving off swear words as the sound of a church bell. It's the same with lots of other men. You want a bell on a church just as much as a man wants a hat on his head. If you don't have a bell you might as well put your preacher in a



A TIN PEDDLER CAME ALONG.

stable to preach. That same bell can also be rung for prayer meetings, fires, Fourth of July and funerals. It will come in handy to warn folks against mad dogs, and its wild notes will tell the people for a mile around when a savage bull has broke loose and taken to the roads. You can't make no mistake in getting a bell, while if you don't have one you'll be looked down on by the towns that have."

The peddler went his way, and there was talk and talk. After three or four days he came back, and there was more talk. Everybody had decided that it would be a good thing to get a bell, but no one knew just how to go to work to raise the money. It was for the peddler to show the way.

"It can be done as easy as falling off a log," he explained, "and you can have some fun over it at the same time. I'm going to lay up here for a couple of weeks while I paint my wagon, and I'll see you through."

His plan was to get a gallon jug and put a lot of beans into it. No one else should know how many. Everybody should pay 50 cents to guess, and when the guessing closed the one who came nearest to the number should get his half dollar back, and the rest of the money should go for a bell. Two or three of the deacons hung off a little, thinking the plan looked like a lottery, but after a day or two the thing was a go. Indeed Deacon Spooner, who was always considered a lucky man, planked down \$2 and recorded four guesses, and the ball was started rolling. Inside of four days every man in Jericho had paid for at least one guess, and inside of a week most of the farmers for five miles around had caught the spirit. The peddler had charge of the money as well as the beans, and every evening there was a gathering at the postoffice to talk the thing over.

When you get a villager started he goes the whole hog. Deacon Spooner got enthusiastic and took three more guesses, and, not to be left behind, Deacon Harper and a dozen others saw the ante. Men who had taken only one guess went in for two and three, and every stranger who came to Jericho was pestered until he came down with

a guess. If business lagged a little the tin peddler was on hand to say:

"Let the good work go right on and weary not in well doing. When that bell rings out of a Sunday morning it will be the voice of glad tidings, and you will all shout for joy. I never want to promise more than I can perform, but if Jericho real estate don't jump 25 per cent within a month after that bell goes dingdong then I'll never show my face here again."

After two weeks there were no more guesses to come in, and a meeting was arranged to count the money and the beans and send a committee up to Troy to buy the bell. Everybody turned out to the meeting. Deacon Spooner took charge. He didn't exactly know whether to open it with a Fourth of July oration or the singing of a hymn, but upon a hint from Silas Wigfall, who had just got over the measles and was feeling happy, he recited a poem and gave Christopher Columbus a certificate of character for sobriety.

Then the meeting waited for the peddler to show up, and while it waited Fearnought Pilgrim got up and started out to eulogize George Washington. He had been sorting over potatoes that day and had got things mixed. He said that Washington and Nero had gone down in history together and that the Father of His Country and Captain Kidd would never be forgotten while the fires of patriotism continued to burn. He was proceeding to compare Washington to Scipio when he was called to order and sat down with a jar that shook the hall.

Just about that time Lish Billings came sauntering in. It had been whispered around that he was the only man in Jericho who hadn't come with a guess, but nobody had dared to ask him. As soon as Deacon Spooner caught sight of him he said:

"I observe that Mr. Billings has just entered the hall. May I ask him to give us some information on the subject of church bells?"

"You may," answered Lish. "I've seen a dozen or two in my time, and they was always hung up in a tower or belfry."

"Well?"

"I am going to buy a bell for the meeting house, but I don't understand where you are going to hang it. Will it be to a fence or a post? There's no tower or belfry."

"By John, but he's right!" shouted the deacon after an awful silence. "We are getting a bell before we've got a belfry. Why didn't some of you thick headed people think of that?"

"Why didn't you?" replied a dozen voices in chorus.

"It wasn't my fault. I was bossing the bell, and I supposed some of you would look out for the other things. What are we going to do about it? It's no use to get a bell till we get a belfry."

"Perhaps the tin peddler can help us out," said some one, and there were shouts of "Peddler! Peddler!" from all over the hall. As he didn't stand up in response, Deacon Spooner held up his hand and said:

"Perhaps Mr. Billings will be kind enough to act as a committee of one to step across to the paint shop and bring the peddler over?"

"It wouldn't be any use," replied Lish with a grin on his face. "He left town half an hour ago, and he had a gait of fifteen miles an hour on him when he rattled over the bridge."

The people were benumbed for thirty seconds. Then they broke loose with a yell and began thumping one another, and it took some of them four weeks to get rid of their black eyes and skinned noses. Deacon Spooner lost four front teeth and most of his chin whiskers, and Fearnought Pilgrim had his nose knocked out of plumb and his ear bitten. Night closed down on a scene of carnage, and the sun came up on a picture of desolation, and it took the town ten years to recover its childish confidence in lightning rod men and tin peddlers.

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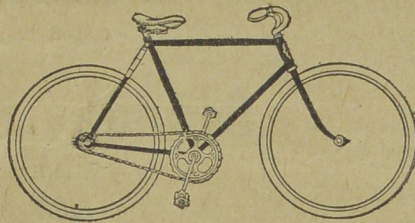
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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after Sunday, June 12th, 1904, trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), as follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton	6.25
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton	7.50
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	11.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No. 136 Suburban for Hampton	13.15
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No. 138 Suburban for Hampton	18.15
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No. 156 Suburban for Hampton	22.40
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No. 135 Suburban from Hampton	7.45
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.50
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.10
No. 137 Suburban from Hampton	15.30
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	17.30
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.15
No. 1 Express from Halifax	19.15
No. 22 40 Suburban from Hampton	22.05
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only)	1.85

All trains are run by Atlantic Standard Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight.

Moncton, June 9, 1904.

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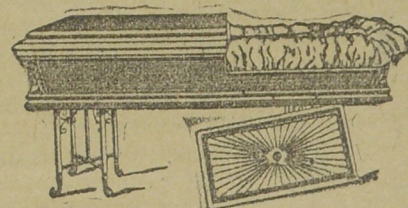
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