

# Cambridge Freeman.

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN!

Owing to the great scarcity of money and the long continuance of many of my customers to their indebtedness for the past year, I am compelled to adopt a new system of business. Very many of my customers have allowed their accounts to run on an unreasonable length of time, and I have been unable to collect. I have, therefore, been obliged to discontinue the credit system, and to require all my customers to pay for their purchases as they are made. I have, however, to continue the credit system for the same time as before, and to require all my customers to pay for their purchases as they are made. I have, therefore, been obliged to discontinue the credit system, and to require all my customers to pay for their purchases as they are made.

**WIL NOT,** sell any goods on credit. I am fully convinced that in those cases where persons buying goods never find it convenient to pay when they make their purchases, and as an inducement to my customers to buy for cash, I will exchange for country produce, I will sell any goods on credit.

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## Ayer's Sarsaparilla

It is widely known as one of the most effective remedies ever discovered for cleansing the system and purifying the blood. It has stood the test of years with a constantly growing reputation, based on its intrinsic virtues, and sustained by its remarkable cures. So mild as to be safe and beneficial to children, and yet so searching as to effectually purge out the great corruptions of the blood, such as the scrofulous and syphilitic contamination, impurities, or diseases that have lurked in the system for years, soon yield to this powerful antidote, and disappear. Hence its wonderful cures, many of which are publicly known, and which are so well attested by the medical profession, and yet so searching as to effectually purge out the great corruptions of the blood, such as the scrofulous and syphilitic contamination, impurities, or diseases that have lurked in the system for years, soon yield to this powerful antidote, and disappear.

It is an excellent restorer of health and strength in the Spring. By renewing the appetite and vigor of the digestive organs, it dissipates the depression and listless languor of the season. Even where no disorder appears, the people feel better, and live longer, for cleansing the blood. The system moves on with renewed vigor and a new lease of life.

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## UNDER THE DAISES.

It is strange what a deal of trouble we take, What a sacrifice most of us willingly make, How the lips will smile though the heart may ache, And we bend to the ways of the world for the sake Of its poor and scanty praises. And time runs on with such pitiless flow That our lives are wasted before we know What work to finish before we go, Of our long rest under the daises.

And too often we fall in a useless fight, For wrong is so much in the place of right, And the end is so far beyond our sight, 'Tis as when one starts on a chase by night, And making a riddle that few may read, Of our life's intricate mazes, That of all we have striven for little is won, And of all the work our strength has done, How little was worth the doing.

So most of us travel with very poor speed, Failing in thought where we conquer in deed; Least hours in the hour of greatest need, And making a riddle that few may read, Of our life's intricate mazes, Such a labyrinth of right and wrong, Is it strange that a heart once brave and strong Should falter at last, and most earnestly long For a calm sleep under the daises?

But if one poor troubled heart can say, "His kindness softened my life's rough way," And the tears fall from the lifeless clay, We shall stand up in heaven in brighter array. Than if all earth rang with our praises; For the good we have done shall never fade, Though the work be wrought and wages paid, And the weary frame of the laborer laid. All peacefully under the daises.

In a frontier town of Nebraska lived John Dalton. This name had fallen into such a state of neglect and non-use that it would scarcely have been recognized by the old associates of its lawful owner, and even to him, I doubt not, would have sounded strangely.

He was later known, particularly on the borders, as Captain Jack. After his own simple fashion he was a character with a history. His title he won gallantly, and was easily. One day in the Rocky Mountains a small party of miners, surrounded by an overpowering number of Indians, retreated into a canon. For three days and nights, with little intermission, the combat continued. On the first day the leader of the gallant little band fell, and Dalton, then a youth, was selected, on account of his cool, determined bravery, to carry on the defence.

When relief came, he was found behind an extemporized barricade, at the entrance of the canon, his companions either dead or wounded, holding his post with a desperate courage which would have abated with death only. His lines had not fallen in pleasant places. He had been a participant and leader in the wild scenes of adventure and danger which, like so many throes, attended the development of the great West. He had belonged to that hard class which forms the first line of the advance guard of civilization—those who go ahead and open the way, throw the first rude bridge across the mountain torrent, first penetrate into the wilds of the enemy, are the scouts and videttes, fall bravely and die in remote places, unknown and unnoticed. When the history of the conflicts is written, their names are not on the rolls of fame.

Firm, brave, honest and true, Dalton early acquired an ascendancy over his companions. Quiet and unassuming, his words always carried weight. His life had been furrowed by hardship; his body bore the marks of many struggles, but his nature had escaped without a blemish. A noble, kindlier heart never beat. As husband, father and friend, he had no superior. At the time I presented him to the reader he was fully fifty years old, but still in his prime. Tall and swarthy, no flesh to spare, plenty of bone and muscle and awkwardness, his head covered with a shock of sandy hair, flecked with gray, his beard shaggy, his features angular. Held to the accepted standard of beauty, he had nothing to commend him unless we except his large blue eyes, as gentle in expression as those of a maiden, and beaming with good will to man.

He was a little boy and girl, each mounted on a chair, the better to get a last look at the father who was so dear to them. This was the good-bye that warmed the man's blood, made his lips quiver with a smile, and sent him on his way rejoicing. The sun shone brightly, making the frost-covered prairie glisten; and the sky was deep and blue.

Between its terminals, the road had two distinctive features, about five miles apart. One was a tall tree, known as the Lone Tree, the other was called Bacon's Run, a ravine bordered by a thin growth of stunted timber. On the line of the road, or in proximity to it, there was no habitation or shelter for man or beast. The prairie was high and rolling.

The first part of the journey was made in the usual way. At half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, Dalton started on his return. He was not twenty yards away when he was overtaken by the postmaster, who charged him to be diligent in the delivery of a highly important letter, a caution which made potent the fact that the cautioner was a "new hand."

At this time a change had taken place in the weather. A thick haze overspread the sun, paling it to the hue of silver; the wind had shifted to the northeast. These signs had not escaped Dalton's notice. The mountaineer, like the sailor, soon learns that life itself often depends on the quick recognition of the friendly warnings which nature gives to the wayfarer. He scanned the narrowing horizon, and urged his horse to a brisk trot. He reached Bacon's Run, passed it, and mounted to the level of the prairie. From this point, on a clear day, the top of the Lone tree could be outlined; but now the clouds had become so heavy and lowering, and the haze had so thickened, that objects near at hand were indistinct. Melancholy, fitful gusts came pressing the traveler from all quarters, as if telling him to hasten. As he looked at the clouds his countenance wore an air of apprehension. He was not kept long in a state of expectancy.

A note, pure and white, came fluttering down, buffeted by the wind, now here, now there, uncertain where to go. It finally sought refuge on Dalton's furled coat. Others soon followed with hesitation, now stopping and ascending, as though to return to the home whence they came, but finally descending, and seeking rest in obscure hiding places. These insignificant specks became larger, more numerous, bolder, took possession, and covered all things with a garment of white.

The situation was plain, a snow-storm on the prairie was at hand. Brave men are keenly sensitive to the approach of a danger with which they resolutely meet. Dalton thought of the comfortable little cottage by the road side, and the dear ones it contained. One night in the mountains he had battled against the snow, and out of ten companions he was the only survivor of that terrible experience.

The snow now raged with increasing power. The snow-fakes were blown about in blinding myriads. All traces of the road, at best never very clearly defined, were covered. The biting wintry blast went moaning by; night came prematurely in a wall of darkness; all was a wild waste for the sport of the elements.

Dalton, unable to see an inch ahead, or to form the remotest idea which direction to take, let the reins fall on the horse's neck, leaving him unrestrained to take his way—a cutting commentary on man's boasted reason pitted against an animal's instinct. But to guide right in such a night would make instant sublime.

The noble steed moved confidently on, plunging into the blackness and darkness—the lonely, desolate unknown. Suddenly he stopped, with an abruptness which nearly threw the rider, who, reaching, touched what seemed to be the trunk of a tree. Extending his hand higher, he grasped what was certainly the limb of a tree, and then all doubt disappeared.

He was at the Lone tree, only five miles from home and safety.

Here, indeed, was hope, but not unalloyed. Two elements entered to vitiate. One, the horse seemed falling; the other, the tree was one hundred yards from the highway, a variation which showed that the faithful animal had so far erred, and hinted, why not a further variation in proportion as he lost strength and confidence. The only solution was to move on. It might be at the bidding of chance; still, metion was absolutely essential to prevent the blood from congealing to the very heart. The rider found it necessary to make the horse feel the rein, to endeavor to impart confidence to him, and to urge him forward. The poor beast was readily obedient, and showed that, his own resources being exhausted, he relied on his master. The sympathy existing between them, the fellowship of peril, almost removed the barrier between the human and brute creation.

A long time elapsed—it seemed to Dalton many hours—but his only measure of time was his bodily and mental suffering. He endeavored to penetrate the darkness, and strained his eyes to a painful tension, in the hope of seeing some friendly light or hearing some human sound—something to tell him he was not all alone.

Fate was mocking him. The horse stood trembling with exhaustion, and could not go another step. He tottered and fell almost on his rider, who rising, and staggering about in the deep snow, struck heavily against an upright post. Could it be the sign-board post which stood on the little knoll just east of his home.

Oh no! Horror more chilling than the wind and snow! It was the Lone Tree! All those terrible hours he had been moving in a circle! All his brave struggle had been for nothing. Here was a crisis. One minute of indecision, and the paralyzing cold would conquer; but early training and a noble nature decided. Faithful to the last, Dalton quickly took the mail-bag from the saddle, nerved himself for the final effort, and then went floundering in the snow to reach—wherever his destiny should lead him.

Time wore on. Strength and will were ebbing fast. In desperation the unfortunate man endeavored to cry out for help, but his indistinct utterances were forced back by the hissing, merciless wind. He was fast losing his mind. His steps were numbered. A faintness came over him. Was it a cruel mirage that came over him? Over the drifts, through the night, shone the bright, cheerful light of a fire, inviting him to comfort and home.

Too late! He uttered a faint cry, then fell in the soft, yielding, deceptive snow. The storm was victor.

Jane Dalton was a cheery, chubby little woman. Of education she could not boast; books and figures were to her unknown quantities. Her world was limited to the little town in which she lived, the capital being bounded by the white fence of her little cottage. But, withal, she was of a humble nature, knew how to love, and fulfilled her every duty as John Dalton's wife. Thrifty and tidy, she managed well the scanty means at her command, and kept the tins and children's faces shining. A happy wife and mother.

At 6 o'clock of the day in question everything was in readiness for her good man's return. The children in bed asleep, and the easy shoes and warm coat near the blazing fire on the hearth, supper prepared, and some mysterious liquid in a snug little kettle, emitting odorous, tempting fumes. It was time for his arrival, and he was usually very prompt. Yet he tarried.

The change in the weather had not taken place unnoticed, but had produced in her a kind of definite uneasiness, a slight restlessness, and yet it had no peculiar importance in connection with the absence of her husband until the clock on the mantel struck seven. Then the wind, whistling around the house corners, rattling the doors and shutters, and the snow beating so persistently against the window panes, acquired a painful significance. Her husband was out in the storm, and might at that moment be perishing with cold on the prairie.

This dreadful thought transformed her whole being; the genial expression of her face changed to a terrified look. She went to the window, and drew wide the curtain that the bright firelight might shine out as a beacon to guide him who was the light of her humble life. She paced to and fro under a rapidly increasing excitement. The weird sounds made by the storm messengers as they whirled by in the fulfillment of their mission made her start and tremble.

Quickly, almost fiercely, she snatched from his body the jealous snow. She rubbed his breast; she chafed his wrists and hands. There was an electricity of love in her touch, which quickly restored warmth and life. John Dalton rose from that bed of death, saved by his wife.

Together in the little home, by the bright fire, a heartfelt prayer, a kiss for the little ones, an embrace—yes, more than one—for the wife, the supper finished, the contents of the snug little kettle not forgotten, John Dalton pressed his hand on his forehead, his face wore a troubled look, then he turned to Jane and said: "Wife, I almost forgot the mail; there's an important letter in the bag, and it must be delivered to-night."

A tender voice replied: "No, John, to-morrow will do."

No SCHOOLMASTER WANTED.—Some years ago some emigrants from Ohio and Illinois settled in a little town in this State and soon began to agitate for the erection of a school-house and the employment of a teacher. A town-meeting was called to consider the proposition; and one of the Northerners made a neat little speech, telling of the blessings which education had brought with it to Ohio and Illinois. When he had sat down an old man in the corner arose, gave the customary hitch to his corduroys, pushed back his hat a trifle and answered thus: "Stranger, up in yer Ohio State you've got a big penitentiary full of people; h'aint yer? Well, yer've got a larnin' up thar! Up in yer Illinois State yer've got a big penitentiary full of people; yer've got larnin' thar! But I've lived here for thirty-seven years in peace and happiness. I've raised nine boys and ten girls, and I sleep perfectly sound o' nights, 'cos I ain't 'fraid any of my boys 'll go to the penitentiary for forgin' notes, 'cos they can't none of 'em write 'em!" (Sensation in the audience and sympathy manifested.)

Another of the new-comers then spoke, arguing in favor of education; and then a tall, lank native stood up and "fixing the Northerner with his glittering eye," made his speech. "See here, mister, ain't you the machine man?" "Yes," said he; "I did sell some machines here last year." "Wa'l, when the wheat got ripe, all the people went to neighbor Johnson's to see how yer movin' machine would operate. We got the tarmal thing into the field, and neighbor Johnson he hitched his young filly into the shafts. She allers was a fractious critter, and the first thing we knowed she give a bounce and caught neighbor Johnson's by Bill's leg an' cut it clean off!" (Manifest sensation.) Then, mister, in about two weeks yer pardner come around peddlin' wooden legs, and neighbor Johnson had to buy one of them 'ere things. Nice educated people you are! You understand it, you do! Fust you sell the machines, and then yer pardner he furnishes wooden legs!" This ended the matter, and no schoolmaster will be welcome in that village for some time to come.

AN OLD TIME WINTER.—Talk about your severe winters and heavy snow storms, how would you like to have lived in Boston, during the year 1717? We find the following notice of it in an exchange: The greatest snow storm on record is that which occurred on the 18th of February, 1717, and continued for four days without ceasing. The account is in the Massachusetts Historical collection. When it ceased the snow was about eight feet deep on a level, and in narrow streets much deeper. In many places it was blown into banks of a wonderful height. The day after it ceased snowing, it rained sufficiently to wet the snow about four inches deep, when it cleared up intensely cold and froze hard enough to bear both man and beast. In Boston paths were dug out under the snow, so that opposite neighbors could pass across the street to each other's houses and they would also cross on the crust to their chamber windows to visit each other. It was in vain to try to make roads through the snow. Vast numbers of animals of all descriptions perished. Many persons who had not a supply of wood laid in were compelled to burn their furniture. Snow was melted for drink and cooking, and what few mails there were were compelled to stop for a long time.

STORY OF A RAT.—A story is told by a farmer residing at Bloomfield, in this State, which seems to indicate reasoning power and a bit of heroic element in a rat. Two rats, an old grey matron of the corn-crib and her offspring, had been caught together in a common box trap. Through a crack the pair could be seen together within, loving enough, till the farm dog was brought to the mouth of the trap. As soon as the mother rat scented the dog she seemed immediately to divine the approaching fate, and, giving a terrible squeal, she caught the little rat by the neck and bit him sharply, causing almost instant death. The trap was opened an instant after, and the old rat, which had thus killed her offspring rather than have it murdered by the dog, quietly submitted to her fate.

It is not generally known that if a person dies by absolute drowning bloody water will run from the body if cut. If death be caused by a blow given previous to falling into the water blood will flow from a cut in the body.

WHAT IS GUM ARABIC?—After the rainy season in Morocco, a gummy juice exudes spontaneously from the trunk and branches of the acacia. It gradually thickens in the furrow down which it runs, and assumes the form of oval and round drops, about the size of a pigeon's egg, of different colors, as it comes down from the red or white gum tree. About the middle of December the Moors encamp on the border of the forest, and the harvest lasts a full month. The gum is packed in large leather sacks, and transported on the backs of camels and bullocks to seaports for shipment. If the harvest season is one of great rejoicing, and the people for the time being are all alive on the gum, which is nutritious and fattening.

The Reductive Wiles of the Auctioneer. Mrs. M. H. Burnham writes to the St. Louis Republican an account of how her household goods were auctioned off when she "broke up" recently and went to boarding. "The auctioneer was an artist," she says, "and between legends and anecdotes, the chattels were knocked down at splendid prices. I admired the ingenuity of the auctioneer who made little heaps of my effects, christened 'em 'lots' and 'paraded them over the floor so that one sort of fair article pulled through a number of worthless traps. Thus a good preserving kettle formed the basis of lot No. 10, and had two broken castors, a soup-ladle with a hole in it, a section of an Old Dominion coffee-pot, a spice-box without a bottom, a pudding-steamers without a cover, the thrasher out of an ice cream freezer and two half old blacking brushes stuck inside of it. That made it a 'lot.' There were about twenty of these lots, which looked rich and attractive, especially after the man went round with an armful of stair rods and put a few in each lot to bristle up and call attention. The different styles of Toodles grouped over these little combinations and bid high for them, and they went off like rockets at two, three and four dollars a lot. I could have cried as I thought of the wealth I had thrown away in empty wine bottles, old hoop-skirts and rusty pokers. You can buy a bran new clothes wringer for five dollars, but mine had lost its handle and went for \$5 20. You can occupy a feather duster for a couple of dollars—the moths had gone into mine and it brought me two dollars and a half. I new fluting iron can be purchased for five dollars; the heater was lost out of mine, but Toodles got it cheap for five dollars and seventy-five cents. 'Here,' said the auctioneer, as the colored assistant elevated a clumsy old chair, whose tread-board seat had been embowered by the subscriber at the age of fifteen, here I offer you a rare and curious