THE TIMES, NEW BLOOMFIELD, PA., SEPTEMBER 25, 1877.

An Ottawa Merchant Tells a Very Strange Story.

8

A telegram from Ottawa to the Toronto papers gives the following as a statement made by Mr. A. D. Fraser, long a 'missing' hardware merchant of that city, detailing his adventures during an enforced absence of over a year :

As near as I can remember I left here in May, 1876-my clerk says the 1st of Junefor Montreal, to transact some business. I had with me about \$800 in cash and a small valise with a change of clothing. On arriving at Montreal I was asked by a man at what hotel I was going to stop. I replied, "The Montreal House," and he took my baggage. I subsequently saw Mr. Eastwood, who said he was going to the Ottawa Hotel. I parted company with the last-named gentleman and walked toward the Montreal House, but, when I saw the man who had taken my baggage driving away with it.

Having some doubt as to his being connected with the Montreal House, I went after him, and, after following him through a couple of streets, caught up to him and asked him where he was going. He said : " To the Montreal House," and in another minute stopped before a house, which on entering I found to be a hotel. I said, "I suppose you think you have played sharp this time," and at once told him to take my baggage to the Montreal House. He said this was the Montreal House. I repeated my observation about playing sharp, asked him to have a drink and then take my valise to the hotel at which I wished to stop.

He had a drink, and I also took one, which must have been drugged, as I remember nothing further than that I sat down on a chair, until I found myself laid up in a ward in the hospital at Cape Town. I then discovered that I had no money, and that my watch and chain were gone. How I got to Cape Town is a perfect mystery to me. I was told by those who were taking care of me that the captain of the vessel which brought me as far as Madeira wished to land me there, but that the authorities would not allow him to do so, as I was wild and I had no means of support. + Another captain then offered to take charge of me, and brought me to Cape Town.

It appears that I arrived there in December, 1876, but did not become conscious until February 10, 1877, when I felt as though I had just awakened out of a long sleep, and asked where I was. I could not believe them when they told me I was in Cape Town, and they thought for some time that I had not recovered my senses. They told me that I had spoken quite rationally before that, but if I had I had then no recollection of it. I had no idea of time until I saw a paper dated 1877, and when I asked the people what it meant, they again thought 1 did not know what I was talking

Of course I had no money, and the peo-ple who took care of me were very kind and would not hear of my paying them. As soon as I was able to get about I pro-cured employment as a bookkeeper in the Conservations and he the Government stores, and by this means obtained funds to carry me to London. Strange to say, on coming to my senses at Cape Town, I found that my valise was with me, and that my clothes had not been disturbed, the clothes I wore evidently having been provided for me by some kind strangers. strangers.

I do not know anything about the vessels which carried me to Cape Town. The whole journey seems like a long sleep to me. I



pourney seems like a long sleep to me. I had earned sufficient money to pay my pas-sage to England and sailed on the 27th of July last, bidding good bye to those who had treated me so kindly. Of course there were many who thought me an impostor, and if I had been left to their tender mer-cies it is a question if Likenid because and if I had been left to their tender mer-cies it is a question if I should be here now, I arrived in England, after a voyage of almost constant illness, on the 24th of August, and receiving funds there which had been forwarded by my friends to meet me, sailed again from Liverpool on the 30th of August, reaching Quebec on Satur-day. day.

Hoax on a Bridegroom.

The Stanford, Ky., Journal says : For some time past Thomas Stepp, a gentleman of color, has paid unceasing attention to Miss Ellen Hickman, also of color. Either by decree of the fates or some other reason Miss Ellen failed to reciprocate the love of her admirer, and strove on all occasions to avoid him. But Thomas would take no rebuff, so his inamorata agreed last Thursthat if he would procure the license she would marry him. Inheriting none of the doubting qualities of his ancient namesake, Thomas took her at her word and invested the sum of \$1.50 in a license, and having secured the services of a preacher sallied forth to be made the happiest of men. On arriving at her home he found everything in readiness and the ceremoney proceeded.

The solemn words were spoken, and Thomas imagined himself a married man. But it seems that the faithless Ellen had procured the services of a boy, whom she dressed in women's clothes, and after having veiled him, made him take her part in the ceremony. When Thomas found out the joke that had been played on him he was frantic with mortification and rage-but unable to remedy matters, he beat a hasty retreat, followed by the minister, who also felt that he had been shamefully victimized. We have not heard what the would-be bridegroom is going to do about it, but, as Miss Hickman is quite wealthy, it is more than likely that he may bring suit against her and compel her to pass over some of her ducats for her practical joke.



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ELIZABETH ENSMINGER.

ELIZABETH ENSMINGER, CORNELIUS ENSMINGER, A. M. Markel, Att'y for Adm'ra.) [Administratr's August 28, 1877.

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Settlensent to THOMAS R. MOFFITT, Executor, " P. O. Address, Newville, Cumb. co., Pa, W. A. & W. H. Sposazz, Aity's for estate. August 21, 1877.-61



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