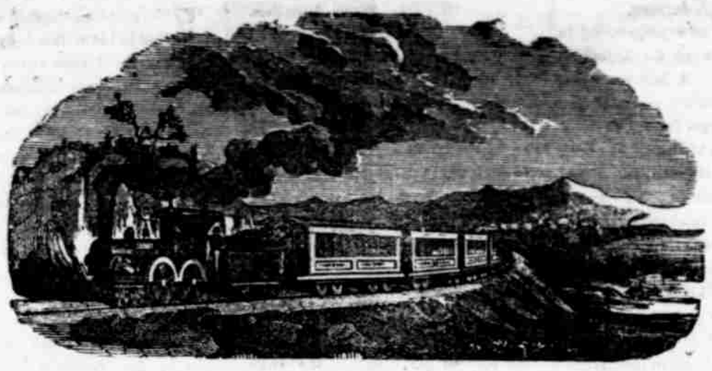
PLYMOUTH  ADVERTISER.

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AN ACT

To amend an act defining the powers and prescribing the duties of the Board of Public Works, passed February 28th, 1852.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:*

That section three, four, six, seven and eight, of "an act defining the powers and prescribing the duties of the Board of Public Works," passed February 28th, 1852, be so amended as to read as follows, to wit: SEC. 2. The members of the Board of Public Works shall designate one of their number to act of President of said Board, who, in addition to his duties as acting commissioner, shall perform such duties as are, or shall be required by law of the President thereof; and the said Board shall divide the Public Works of this State as nearly equal as they may deem practicable, into three districts, which districts, may be designated by such name as the Board may deem proper; and the commissioner shall each take charge of one of the said districts as may be assigned to him by said Board, and be responsible, to the extent of his power and authority, for the due and faithful administration of the affairs of the district under his particular charge.

SEC. All moneys derived from tolls on the canals, turnpikes, or other improvements of the State, as well as all moneys derived from leases of water-power, on the sales of land held by the State for canal purposes, or from any other source appertaining to the interest or management of the public works of the State, shall be paid into the State Treasury, on the certificate of the Auditor of State; and all payments of money, whether in the nature of awards, or for superintendence, or repairs of the canals, turnpikes; or other improvements under the supervision of the Board of Public Works, or for any other object or purpose authorised by law, shall be made by the check of one of the acting commissioners, on the Auditor of State, whose duty it shall be to issue his draft on the State Treasury, for the amount specified in said check, and to charge the same to the particular work or improvement on which the expenditure arose.—No check shall be made until after the consideration on which it is based shall have been actually rendered, and every check shall be made in the name of the particular person to whom the money is due, and shall set forth with as much detail as proper brevity will admit, the nature of the indebtedness, whether incurred for materials, labor, superintendence, or otherwise, and to what object, and at what point, said materials, labor, or superintendence were applied. Every check shall distinctly set forth the specific appropriation which authorises its payment, and shall be accompanied with a certificate of the superintending engineer, which shall name the person or persons to whom there is indebtedness, and state the particular work on which it occurred, and the location thereof, and whether by contract or otherwise. The check and certificate herein required, shall be registered in books, one to be kept by the engineer, and one by the commissioner.

SEC. 5. Collectors of toll shall, in addition to such other duties as may, from time to time, be required by them, collect all water rents due the State, or hereafter become due, and make return of such collections, and pay over all moneys thus collected, in the same manner, and at the same time, they are by law required to make return of, and pay over the tolls by them collected; and it is hereby made the duty of the President of the Board of Public Works, within three months after the passage of this act, to furnish the Auditor of State attested copies of all leases for water power, which are now in force; and thereafter, from time to time, to furnish said auditor attested copies of all new leases, and of all renewals or modifications of those now in force, within thirty days after such lease, renewal or modification shall be made by said Board. And it shall also be the duty of said Board, within the time above prescribed, to furnish attested copies of said original leases, renewals or modifications, to each collector of tolls, on whom the duty of collecting the water rents herein provided, is imposed.

SEC. 6. The Board of Public Works shall have power to appoint five Resident Engineers, and assign to them the supervision of such part of said works, as in their opinion shall be for the best interest of State, under such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as may be from time to time prescribed by said Board; said Board may hire such number of lock tenders as may be for the interest of the public works. The member of said Board, and Resident Engineer, having under charge and supervision the same part of said works, shall have power to appoint such number of superintendents of repairs, for such part of said works as in their opinion the labor to be performed and the interest of the State may require. The Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint the collectors of tolls, inspectors and weigh masters, for the public works of the State; and it is hereby made the duty of the Board of Public Works, on or before the first Monday of January, in each year, to report to the Governor the number and location of each said officers necessary for the transaction of the business pertaining to each, as well as whose terms of office will expire during the ensuing year and of any vacancy in any office to be filled by him under the provisions of this act; Provided, no appointment shall be made under the provisions of this act, which shall interfere with, or annul any commission appointment now in existence, made by the Board of Public Works before the expiration thereof, or vacancy happening therein; and provided, further, that in case of a vacancy, by resignation, removal, or otherwise, of any of the officers herein designated to be appointed by the Governor and Senate, at a time when the General Assembly shall not be in session, the Governor shall have power to appoint a person to fill such vacancy during the unexpired term. Every person appointed to office according to the provisions of this act, by the Governor and Senate, shall receive a certificate thereof, signed by the Governor, and countersigned by the Secretary of State, and those appointed by the Board of Public Works shall receive a certificate thereof signed by the President of said Board. No person shall be appointed under the provisions of this act, for a longer period than one year, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, except those appointed by the Governor and Senate, which shall be for two years; Provided, that the collectors of tolls, inspectors and weigh masters, now holding appointments from the Board of Public Works, by renewing their bonds, shall continue in their offices until the same shall be filled by the Governor and Senate, unless they shall be sooner removed by the Governor and said Board, for the causes, and in the same manner provided in this act. Every person appointed to office under the provisions of this act, may be removed at any time before the expiration of his term, by the person or persons, or body corporate from whom such officer holds his appointment, for neglect of duty, or other malfeasance in office. The person to be removed shall be furnished with a written specification of the cause of his removal; and before the taking effect of such removal, shall have twenty days to produce testimony before the person or persons by whom he is removed, to show that the causes of removal are untrue: and if he shall so produce satisfactory evidence that the charges against him are not true, then he shall be restored to his office; Provided, that the person or persons desiring to make such removal, shall have power to appoint a person for the time being, to take charge of the business of such office. Every officer appointed under the provisions of this act, shall, before entering on the duties of their office, take and subscribe an oath that he will faithfully and diligently discharge all the duties appertaining to his appointment, and promote to the extent of his ability the interest of the State, so far as the same may be legally in his power. Every collector or other officer, in anywise interested with the collection or disbursement of tolls, or other revenue pertaining to the public works, shall, previous to assuming the duties of his appointment, give bond to the State of Ohio, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office, which said bond shall be made to the acceptance of the acting commissioner who has in charge that division of the Public Works in which said officer is located, and having been approved, shall be immediately deposited in the office of the Auditor of State. Such bonds shall be made in such penal sum as may be ordered by the Board of Public Works; Provided, it shall in no case be less than fifty per cent. of the amount of public money collected or disbursed by the same officer in the same officer in the preceding year, and shall be conditioned for the faithful collection, disbursement, paying over and accounting for all moneys which shall come into his hands, belonging to the State: Provided, That if any officer named in this act, whose duty it is to collect or disburse any of the public moneys, shall be found by any member of the Board, Engineer or Governor, acting dishonestly with said moneys, he shall be forthwith removed and another person appointed to take charge of such office by the person first discovering such dishonesty; and should such removal be by a member of the Board or Engineer, their action in the case shall be by them forthwith reported to the Governor for his approval.

SEC. 7. It is hereby made the duty of the Auditor of State to cause all the rolls abstracts and accounts of the collectors of tolls upon the Canals and Slack-water improvements of this State, for the last season of navigation, to be thoroughly examined and compared with each other, so that any discrepancy between the amounts credited by the collectors receiving any moneys and the check kept by each other collector, shall be ascertained; and in case of any such discrepancy, the clearance upon which moneys purports to have been received, shall be examined for the purpose of ascertaining the true amount received; and if the said Auditor shall, after having ascertained the state of the accounts for the last season, deem it for the interest of the State to examine and compare as above, any part or all the rolls, abstracts and accounts, for previous years, he is hereby authorised to cause such examination to be made, and also for each ensuing year; and for the purpose of such examination, if necessary, he is hereby authorized to employ an additional clerk for such time as he may find necessary.

SEC. 8. Collectors of canal tolls, shall receive for their services, a fixed minimum salary of four hundred dollars per annum, to be paid out of the State Treasury; in quarterly instalments at the close of each quarter; and in addition thereto, the Auditor of State shall, annually, on the fifteenth day of November, ascertain the amount of money collected and paid into the State Treasury, by each collector, and allow to each of said collectors, six per centum on the first thousand dollars, five per centum on any sum between one and two thousand dollars, four per centum on any sum between two and three thousand dollars, three per centum on any sum between three and four thousand dollars, two per centum on any sum between four and five thousand dollars, and one per centum on any sum over five thousand dollars by him collected, and actually paid into the State Treasury, during the year ending on the fifteenth day of November; Provided, the compensation above authorised, shall in no case exceed fifteen hundred dollars per annum; and no additional charge or allowance shall be made for office rent or clerk hire. Engineers shall receive an annual salary of Fifteen Hundred Dollars. Inspectors, weigh masters, and superintendents shall each receive an annual salary of six hundred dollars. The compensation provided in this section, shall, in each case, be paid in equal quarterly instalments, by the draft of the Auditor of State, drawn the close of each quarter, on the second Monday in February, May, August and November, annually.

SEC. 9. The original sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, of the act to which this amendatory, are hereby repealed.

F. C. LEBLOND,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
ROBT. LEE;
President of the Senate, pro tem.
May 1st 1854.

AN ACT

To amend the 61st and 77th sections of the act entitled "an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages," and the 13th section of the act entitled an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages, passed March 11, 1853.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio,*

That section sixty-one, of the act entitled "an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages," passed May 3, 1852, be so amended as to read as follows: SEC. 61. The city council shall possess all the legislative powers granted in this act, and other corporate powers of the city, not herein, or by some ordinance of the city council, made in pursuance of this act, conferred on some officer of the city; they shall have the management and control of the finances, and of all the property, real and personal, belonging to the corporation. They shall provide the times and places of holding their meetings, which shall at all times be open to the public: and the mayor, or any three trustees, may call special meetings, by notice to each of the members of the council served personally, or left at his usual place of abode. They shall appoint, or provide by ordinance, that the qualified voters of the city, or of the wards or districts, as the case may require, shall elect all such city officers as shall be necessary for the good government of said city, and for the due exercise of its corporate powers, and which shall have been provided for by ordinance, as to whose appointment or election, provision is not herein made, and not provided for by any general law of the State, in reference to cities of the first class; and all city officers, whose term office is not prescribed, and whose powers and duties are not defined in the act to which this is amendatory, or some general act supplementary thereto, shall perform such duties, exercise such powers, and continue in office for such term of time, not less than two nor more than three years, as shall be prescribed by ordinance; but all officers to be elected, shall be elected at the regular annual election for municipal corporations. The officess of all municipal corporations, shall receive such compensation and fees for their services, as the trustees shall by ordinance prescribe: Provided, that the compensation of the council, or trustees, shall not exceed one dollar to each member, for every regular or special meeting of the board.

SEC. 2. That section seventy-seven of the said act to which this is amendatory, be so amended as to read as follows: SEC. 77. The city council shall have power to erect and establish, to maintain and regulate an infirmary, for the accommodation of the poor of such city, either within the city, or within the county in which such city may be situate, and for such purpose, may purchase, or hold, any real estate that may be deemed necessary. The management and government of such infirmary, and the granting of out-door relief to the poor, under such rules and regulations as the council may prescribe, shall be vested in a board of three directors, to be elected by the qualified voters of the city, and to hold their office for the term of three years; but it shall be so provided, that one of said directors shall be elected annually. The city council provide that the said directors shall appoint, or the qualified voters of the city shall elect, such number of overseers as may be deemed necessary in said city, and who shall perform such duties in respect of the care of the poor, and their removal to said infirmary, as the city council shall prescribe.

SEC. 3. That section 13 of the act entitled an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages, passed March 11, 1853, be so amended as to read as follows: Section 13. That the city council of any city, or incorporated village, of this State, on petition filed by any person or persons, owning any lot or lots, in any such city or incorporated village, praying that any street or streets, alley or alleys, in the immediate vicinity of such lot or lots, may be vacated or narrowed, may and they are hereby authorized, upon hearing and being satisfied that there is good cause for such vacation or narrowing, and that it will not be detrimental to the general interest, and that the same should be made, declare such street or streets, alley or alleys vacated or narrowed: Provided, no street or alley shall be vacated as aforesaid, unless notice of the pendency and prayer of such petition shall be given by publishing the same in some newspaper, published in such city or village for six consecutive weeks, immediately preceding action on each petition; or in case no newspaper is published in such city or village, by posting such notices in three public places, in such city or village, by posting such notices in three public places, in such city or village, six weeks immediately preceding such action.

SEC. 4. That section sixty-one and seventy-seven of the act entitled an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages, passed May 3, 1852, and section 13 of the act supplementary to an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages, passed March 11, 1853, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

F. C. LEBLOND,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
JAS. MYERS,
President of the Senate, pro tem.
April 29, 1854.

AN ACT

To amend an act entitled "an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages," passed May 3d, 1852.

SEC 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:*

That section 62 of an act entitled "an act to provide for the organization of cities and incorporated villages," passed May 3d, 1852, be so amended as to read as follows: The city council shall have to establish a board of health, to invest it with such powers and impose upon it such duties, as shall be necessary to secure the city and the inhabitants thereof from the evils of contagious, malignant, and infectious diseases; provide for its proper organization, and the election or appointment of the necessary officers thereof; and make such by-laws, rules and regulations for its government and support, as shall be required for enforcing the prompt and efficient performance of its duties, and the lawful exercise of its powers, they shall have power to establish a city watch, a police, to organise the same under the general superintendence of the mayor, marshal or other officers of the police, prescribe its duties, and define its powers, in such manner as will most effectually preserve the peace of the city, secure the inhabitants thereof from personal violence, and their property from fire and unlawful depredations; they shall establish and organise fire companies, and provide them with engines and such other other instruments as shall be necessary to extinguish fire, and preserve the property of the inhabitants of the city from conflagration; and provide such by laws and regulations for the government of the same, as they shall deem expedient; and each and every person who shall belong to any such fire company, shall, in time of peace, be exempt from the performance of military duty under the laws of the State; they shall erect, establish and regulate the markets and masket-places, for the sale of provisions, vegetables and other articles necessary for the sustenance, convenience and comfort of the city and the inhabitants thereof; they shall have power to prescribe the times of opening and closing the same, the kind and description of articles which may be sold therein, and the stands or places to be occupied by the venders. The city council shall have full power to prevent forestalling, to prohibit or regulate huckstering in the markets, and adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to prevent fraud, and to preserve order in the markets; and they may authorise the immediate seizure, arrest, and removal from any market, of any person or persons violating its regulations, as established by ordinance, together with any article in their possession, and the immediate seizure and destruction of tainted or unsound meat or other provisions; but no change or assessment of any kind shall be made or levied in any manner, against or upon any farmer or producer of vegetables or provisions, in bring the same to any of the markets, in any city, or standing in, or occupying a place, with or without horses and wagons, or in bringing such produce to the market, in any of the market places of such city, or in the streets contiguous thereto, on market days and evenings previous thereto, Provided however, This nothing contained in this act shall be construed as to authorise the city council of any city to pass an ordinance for the purpose of assessing or imposing any fine or punishment whatever, upon any farmer or producer, for selling at any time within the city, any article of provision or vegetable, to any person or persons in any street or streets, or market space, during market hours.

SEC. 2. That the sixty-second section of the act to which this is amendatory, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

F. C. LEBLOND,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
ROBT. LEE,
President of the Senate, pro tem.
May 1st, 1854.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE,
Richland County, Ohio, Aug. 9, 1854.
I certify that I have carefully compared the above with the original act, and find them correct.
JESSE WILLIAMS, Auditor.

THE DEAD.

The dead alone are great?
While heavenly plants abide on earth,
The soil is one of dewless death;
But when they die, a morning shower
Comes down and makes their memories flower
With odors sweet, though late.

The dead alone are fair!
While they are with us, strange lines play
Before our eyes, and chase away
God's light; but let them pale and die,
And swell the stores of memory—
There is no envy there.

The dead alone are dear!
While they are here, long shadows fall
From our own forms, and darken all;
But when they leave us, all the shade
Is round our own sad footsteps made,
And they are bright and clear.

The dead alone are blest!
While they are here, cloud is near the day,
And bitter snow lies on their May;
But when the tempest time is done,
The light and heat of Heaven's own sun
Broods on their lands of rest.

HORRORS OF THE GREAT JAIL OF VIENNA.—But let us listen for a moment, to the voice of a more recent victim of the Austrian Court, the young and patriotic Count Gonfalonieri, whose crime it was to be an Italian, and to love his country. In a few of the most awful lines ever penned, thus he wrote the story of his life:

"I am an old man now, yet by fifteen years my soul is younger than my body! Fifteen years I existed, (for I did not live—it was not life,) in the self same dungeon, ten feet square! During six years I had a companion; nine years I was alone. I never could rightly distinguish the face of him who shared my captivity, in the eternal twilight of our cell. The first year we talked incessantly together; we related our past lives—our joys forever gone—over and over again. The next year we communicated our ideas to each other on all subjects. The third year we had no ideas to communicate, we were beginning to lose the power of reflection. The fourth, at intervals of a month or so, we would open our lips to ask each other if it were indeed possible that the world went on as gay and bustling as when we formed a portion of mankind. The fifth year we were silent. The sixth he was taken away, I never knew where, to execution or to liberty; but I was glad when he was gone; even solitude was better than the dim vision of that pale face. After that I was alone. Only one event broke in upon my nine year's vacancy, One day, (it must have been a year or two after my companion left me), the dungeon door was opened, and a voice—I know not from whence—uttered these words: "By order of his Imperial majesty, I intimate to you that your wife died a year ago." Then the door was shut; I heard no more.—They had but flung this great agony in upon me, and left me alone with it again."

THE DELUGE.—*M.* Cuvier, in one of his lectures delivered at Paris, on the Natural Sciences, remarked the astonishing conformity which existed in the traditions of various nations with respect to the period of the occurrence of the deluge. The Hebrew text of Genesis fixes it in the year 3349 B. C. The Indians make the fourth age of the world—the age in which we are now living commence in the year 3012. The Chinese place it about the year 2384. Confucius, in fact, represents the first king, Yao employed in carrying off the waters of the ocean, which had reached the summits of the mountains, and in repairing the damage which they had caused.

Family vs. Company,

OR FOUR KINDS OF CAKE.

CHAPTER I.

'It is all folly wife!' exclaimed Mr. Jotham Somes; a matter-of-fact, plain spoken sort of a man, to his better-half.—'There you have got no less than four kinds of cake, three kinds of pies, two kinds of preserves, to say nothing of knick knacks, and jim-cracks'

The fact was that Mrs. Somes was having the minister and his wife and two full grown daughters to take tea with her.—She had been engaged for three days in the preparations, and such a display of nice things was calculated to astonish the minister and his family—to give them a two-fold surprise, first at the variety and extent of her culinary resources, and secondly at her folly in attempting to make a display far beyond her means.

The Somes' were in comfortable circumstances. *Mr.* Somes was a farmer, and probably his income might have amounted to four hundred dollars per annum.

Mrs. Somes was a careful, prudent house-wife, who wasted no more of her culinary skill upon her own family than was absolutely necessary. But she delighted in making a grand appearance when she had company. Mr. Somes and the boys were sometimes so ill-natured as to growl at her careful catering when the house contained no company; and it cut them to the bone to see such extraordinary preparations for the neighbors. It was 'kiss the cook,' when there were guests present.

Mr. Jotham Somes had just come from the sitting room where the table, with all the tempting array of viands was spread. He did not like it a bit, and after passing the time of day with the parson and his family, he proceeded to the kitchen where his wife was just taking the biscuit out of the oven.

'What do you mean by this folly, I should like to know!' replied Mr. Somes, somewhat tartly.

She was a second wife, and having been redeemed from one of the advanced stages of maidenhood, her temper had grown a little sour before she became a wife

'The folly of getting such a table as you have yours,' replied the husband, 'I should think you were going to have the President and the royal family to take tea with you.'

'I am going to have the Rev. Mr. Deeklie and his family.'

'I will take care of my business, if you will of yours,' returned the lady as she slammed the oven door.

'Perhaps this is not my business.'

'No! I'm sure it is not'

'Who pays for all them gew-gaws and gim-cracks?'

'You do of coutse.'

'But it is none of my business!'

'No! I neverthought befor you were so confounded mean!' said the lady, her face reddening with anger.

'Mean! I'm not mean! But when you get victuals for your own family, you think almost anything is good enough for them. We never see any pies and cake and knick knacks.'

'Do you think I'm going to make pies and cake for men folks to eat every day?' retorted the indignant housekeeper.

'Then don't do it for company. What is good enough for me is as good as I can afford to give my visitors.'

'I really believe if you had your own way, you would have me as mean with company as the Smiths.'

'The Smiths are as good folks and as liberal as any in town; and I'll warrant Parson Deeklie thinks a heap more of them with all your kinds of cake.'

'Your're a fool, *Mr.* Somes!'

'I am fool enough to know that folks are not judged by the quantity of sweet cake they put upon the table when they have company. I repeot it; there are no better folks in town than the Smiths.'

I s'pose not; but they had nothing but cold biscuit and molasses gingerbread when we took tea there.

'That's as good as they can afford; but it is no better than they have every day, and I admire their independence.'

'They are contemtible mean folks!'

'Why? Because they do not attempt to make folks think they live better than they do? For my part, I don't think it is any better than hypocrisy to make such a parade of victuals as you do, especially when it is hard work for me and the boys to get a decent meal of victuals.'

'Did anybody ever hear the like?' groaned the lady, who had by this time arrived at that pitch of excitement, when tears are more effective than words.

'Perhaps they never did; but if I ever see anything of this sort again, they will be pretty likely to hear of it,' replied Mr Somes, throwing off his blue frock, and commencing his preparation for taking tea with the minister.

CHAPTER II.

The plate of hot biscuit was placed in the midst of the profusion of fancy eatables with which the table was crowded. The minister and his family were duly seated, and the ceremony was proceeding decently and in order.

Mrs. Somes had not wholly recovered from the excitement of the interview in the kitchen, and her hand trembled slightly as she handed *Mrs.* Deeklie her tea. Mr. Somes had donned his best blue coat with brass buttons, which had done duty as a Sunday garment for the past fifteen years.

He seemed to be somewhat uneasy, and although he and the minister had always been on the best of terms, his answers were too short and crusty for a courteous host.

'Won't you pass the biscuit to Mrs. Deeklie, husband?' said *Mrs.* Somes, with her sweetest smile, albeit not very sweet at that.

Mr Somes did pass the biscuit to Mrs. Deeklie, and she took one, but when he passed them to Mr. Deeklie, he smilingly declined.

'No I thank you, *Mr.* Somes; I never eat hot bread. It does not agree with me,' said he.

Mrs. Somes passed the cold bread, thinking all the time how very uncivil it was in the parson to refuse the hot biscuit she had taken so much pains to prepare.

But Mr. Deeklie was very respectful to his stomach; for he found when insulted and imposed upon, that it was tyrannical and disagreeable; and he paid more deference to his digestive organs than he did to the feelings of his vain parishioners.

'My biscuits are not very nice; I did not have as good luck as I generally do,' suggested Mrs. Somes, as Mrs Deeklie took a second biscuit.

'Better!' interrupted Mr. Somes.

The lady looked at him with very evident marks of displeasure.

'They are very nice,' said the parson's wife.

'Take a little more of this quince preserves, Mrs. Deeklie. I dare say it's not so nice as your mother makes; but the truth is——'

'It has stood so long,' interrupted Mr. Somes. 'The jar has not been opened since you were here last fall.'

Mrs. Somes looked daggers; but the parson very considerately asked *Mr.* Somes whether he had done planting, just at that moment, and her anger evaporated without any unpleasant effects.

'Husband, won't you pass this cake to Mr. Deeklie?'

'Thank you, Mrs. Somes, I never eat cake. Your bread is very good. I will thank you for some more.'

'Really, *Mr.* Deeklie, you will take some of this cake? It is not rich; there is very little butter in it.'

'Not any, I thank you; I never eat cake, unless it be something very simple, such as gingerbread, or molasses cake.'

What a calamity! Four kinds of cake, and the parson wouldn't touch one of them.

'But you will take some of these jumbles; I made them on purpose for you.'

'That's a fact, *Mr.* Deeklie,' added *Mr.* Somes, maliciously.

He would further have added that his wife never made pies and cakes for her own family; but he was afraid of frightening the parson.

'You must excuse me. I doubt not they are very nice, but I have to be careful.'

Mrs. Deeklie and her two grown up daughters were more courteous, and each nibbled a small bit of the rich pound cake; but they seemed to do it against their consciences and against their better judgment.

The truth was they felt embarrassed by the extraordinary display Mrs. Somes had made. They did not feel at home. The whole affair was too set and artificial to be enjoyed, and at an early hour the whole party withdrew, mentally determined to make it a long time before they took tea with Mrs. Somes again.

CHAPTER III.

'Wife, where is the piece of meat I sent home for dinner?' asked farmer Somes, as he and the boys came in for their noonday meal, on the day following the tea party.

The farmer glanced inquiringly at the table which was spread before him. Involuntarily his nasal organ contracted longitudinally; it would not be polite to say he turned up his nose, though such was the fact, beyond the possibility of denial.

Farmer Somes was not, in any sense an epicure. He liked a plain, substantial diet, that 'which was good, and enough of it,' and he forcibly expressed his idea of table economy.

Lest the reader should suppose he was one of those grouty, ill-natured 'feeders,' who would grumble at the ambrosia and nectar of the gods, we deem it necessary to particularize the articles on the board of the lady, who placed four kinds of cake before company.

Certainly here was variety enough to satisfy the most fickle taste. On a broken plate—the best dishes were religiously reserved to the use of company—was the half of one sausage and two-thirds of another, making one sausage and one-sixth, all told. They were partially imbedded in a petrified sea of suspicious looking fat, and altogether, the aspect of the dish was singularly forbidding.

On a white plate with a long black fracture extending quite across it, lay in an aggregated mass, three dozen baked beans and an infinitesimal fragment of a pork rind. This was an antiquity. Farmer Somes and the boys had a very distinct remembrance of having seen this dish every day during the previous fortnight; proving that she was not only the most economical, but one of the most obstinate dames in the world. The farmer and the boys had virtually said they would not eat these same beans; and Mrs. Somes virtually said they should.

On a worn out blue plate, superanuated, and 'nicked' in a thousand places, were four pork bones, looking as though they had been preyed upon by that army of mice which Whittington's cat destroyed. These bones had seen service during the last twelve days. The joint of which they were the disintegrated members, had graced the table just one fortnight before.

There were sundry articles, antique, old-fashioded 'tit bits,' which might have been set before Noah and his family in his friends in the ark. Six long red potatoes, unpeeled, even unsprouted, completed the array of edibles, ornamental and substantial.

The farmer'r nose contracted, as before related.

'Where is the meat I sent home?'

'Hanging in the well.'

'Had'nt we better eat it?'

'I want it for company next Sunday.'

'The—— ahem! company again?'

'I expect my brother will dine with us then, and I want something to set before him,'

Mrs. Somes looked sulky.

'And you mean to starve me and the boys in the meantime?'

'I should like to know if there is not enough for you?' said the dame pointing to the table.

Farmer Somes turned up his nose.

'Did I ever refuse to buy victuals when you wanted them?' said he rather sternly.

'Not that I know of; but I did'nt suppose you wanted to buy fresh meat every day,' returned the wife sourly. 'I am sure I try to be as economical as I can.'

'Four kinds of cake, which nobody touch, I suppose is prudent, ain't it?'

'Ah, good morning, Mr. Somes, I am glad to find you at home;' said Deeklie, walking into the room unannounced.

Good gracious! the minister, and with such a table as that spread before the family! What a commentary on four kinds of cake for a company.

Mrs. Somes was all confusion. Though the parson intended to look right at the farmer, she could see that more than once his eyes wandered over the table.

'Glad to see you parson; sit down and take some dinner with us,' said Mr. Somes, taking the minister's offered hand.

'Thank you, *I* don't care if *I* do,' replied the parson. 'I have a long walk to take before I return home.'

Farmer Somes was pointing him to a chair, when the lady interposed.

'We have got a picked up dinner to day. Husband sent home a joint of veal but it did'nt get here until half past eleven, so I had no time to cook it.'

'Got here by eight o'clock,' said farmer Somes; 'no fibs to the parson.'

'But if you will wait only a few minutes I will fry some of the veal.'

'Sit down parson; it's every day fare, but then what is good enough for me is good enough for my friends'

'Right, Mr. Sowes,' replied the minister, drawing up his chair. 'My business relates to the new bell for the meeting house. I am carrying round a subscription paper.

'I am with you parson.'

Farmer Somes was in a most malicious good humor, and with a broad laugh on his honest phiz, he opened the paper the minister handed him.

'Smith, twenty dollars,'

'Twenty dollars!' exclaimed Mrs. Somes, 'I should not think he could afford it.

'He give his friends nothing but ginger-bread,' said the farmer. 'Put me down for thirty, we have four kinds of cake.'

The person consumed one 'long red,' and one of the vulgar fractions of a cold sausage. He preferred brown bread to white, and would'nt touch any of the pies, which the prudent housekeeper set before him.

Mrs. Somes was awfully mortified.—Her reputation was sacrificed, and Farmer Somes never again had occasion to find fault with her for making a vain show of three kinds of preserves, and four kinds of cake.

A Spanish proverb says—"Never argue with a woman, or by drugs from a boy," which is a useful caution, the former being apt to mistake loquacity for logic, and the latter oxalic acid for Epsom salts.