

CHELMSFORD COONS, 1894

Second Row: Arthur M. Warren  
Albert H. Davis  
Dr. Chamberlain  
John H. Wilson  
John H. Redmond

Front Row: Walter Perham  
Edward B. Emerson  
Charles E. Bartlett  
Albert Perham

Back Row: Ervin W. Sweetser  
Charles Nichols, sr.  
Arthur Spear  
Harry L. Parkhurst

# Entertainment wore a different face

DEC. 4, 1986

A century ago, the citizens of Chelmsford and the surrounding towns eagerly awaited the spring announcement of the minstrel show at the town hall. Although minstrelsy is one of the oldest forms of the performing arts, it took on a new image in the mid-19th century, riding the crest of popularity until World War II.

Since then "minstrel shows" have become socially unacceptable with the recognition of their offense to black citizens. However, the minstrel shows staged locally were pure entertainment — rip roaring comedy — with no social implications implied by the producers or inferred by the audience.

The shows were 100 percent amateur, with the cast made up of businessman and other prominent citizens under the sobriquet of the "Chelmsford Coons" before the turn of the century. Later, church groups, the American Legion post, and the Grange turned to this surefire hit as a fund raiser.

The local troupe received unusual publicity in the press. One announcement read: "The coon is a nocturnal animal and, true to their instincts, the 14 Chelmsford members of the species will put in an appearance Thursday evening at the town hall, when they will bring down the house. It is currently reported that the janitor expects to reap a harvest from the sale of buttons gathered up after the performance, and that the grocer and druggist will lay in an extra supply of liniment for sore sides."

It was reported following the production, that "the entertainment was attended by an audience of at least 400, fully testing the seating capacity of the house." Lowell and all the surrounding towns were represented.

Minstrel shows followed a stereotyped pattern, usually of three parts: "First Part,"

## The way it was

By George A. Parkhurst



"Olio," and "Second Part." The first part adhered to a structured form. The "interlocutor," a sort of ringmaster, was seated in the center of the front row with the soloists on either side of him. At either end of the front row were the "end men." The chorus was arranged in rows behind these.

The interlocutor, usually a person with a commanding personality and a resonant voice, was the "straight man" for the banter with the "end men." Although his announcements and attempts to correct his adversaries were couched in excessively learned terms, he was continually outwitted in the verbal exchanges with the end men.

While the interlocutor was always played straight, the end men and, sometimes, the chorus were in blackface. The end men were real clowns, usually addressed as "bones" and "tambo" because of the instruments they played. The bones were curved pieces of hard wood held between the fingers and shaken to sound like castanets. "Tambo" played the tambourine, demonstrating his dexterity by tapping the drumhead on his knees, elbows, hands, shoulders and head.

At the conclusion of each joke by one "end," his counterpart would guffaw loudly, leading the audience to laughter regardless of how corny the story was and both "ends" would shake their tambourines for added

punctuation. The jokes were interspersed with vocal solos and dances.

The brief "olio" was "played in one," that is, on the apron of the stage before the front curtain, allowing the stage hands to set the stage for the "second part".

The "second part" was free fantasy — specialities, sketches, parodies of current plays — all of the parts played by members of the cast of the "first part." It frequently had at least one female character (the wench) that produced considerable laughter from the audience since all the actors were well known local men.

In later years, mixed casts of men and women appeared in the entire production.

The quality of the music was excellent; both soloists and members of the chorus were accomplished singers. The tunes were a blend of old standbys and popular music of that time.

The final production by the Chelmsford Coons was a revival on Dec. 12, 1923 with a cast of 23, including three "bones" and three "tambos." Several younger men were recruited to augment the remaining members of the original casts. At that time the Coons' "mascots," a live racoon in a cage surmounted by a stuffed specimen, occupied a table in front of the stage.

The minstrel show was a musical that could be capably handled by amateurs and always attracted a crowd since there was no attempt to compete with professional entertainers and the jokes involved local officials and situations without malice.

How times have changed...

*George A. Parkhurst is a Chelmsford historian whose family has lived in town since 1654.*

F. A. E.

# 2



RETURN

—OF THE—

CHELMSFORD COONS.

GRAND

Minstrel Entertainment

—AT THE—

TOWN HALL, CHELMSFORD CENTRE,

THURSDAY EVENING. JAN. 14. 1892.

IN AID OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH.

Sup Book of 207

QUESTER,

A. H. DAVIS.

C. R. THOMAS.

ED. WIRT.

H. L. PARKHURST.

C. E. BARTLETT.

The Cream of the

A. M. WARREN.

C. E. PARK.

"Colored Four Hundred."

F. A. EMERSON.

W. EMERSON.

A. H. PARK.

J. WILSON.

JESTERS,

JESTERS,

J. E. ADAMS.

J. A. BARTLETT.

W. B. COTTON.

A. P. PERHAM.

# MENU.



1. Overture, - - - - - American Orchestra  
[All White.]
2. Opening Chorus, - - - - - Colored Four Hundred  
[All Black.]
3. Keep a Hammerin', - - - - - A. P. Perham  
[Respectfully dedicated to the spinsters.]
4. My Exiled Boy, - - - - - Ed. Wirt  
[By the boy himself.]
5. Who Stole the Ham, - - - - - J. E. Adams  
[A liberal prize will be given for the correct solution of this mystery.]
6. Susan Brown, - - - - - J. A. Bartlett  
[This song has met with the greatest success—at the rehearsals.]
7. Cornet Solo, - - - - - G. T. Parkhurst  
[First appearance on any American stage.]
8. Down on the Old Plantation, - - - - - F. A. Emerson  
[This Plantation for sale; easy terms; \$1 down, the rest in less than a minute.]
9. Golden Chariot, - - - - - W. B. Cotton  
[The voice used by Mr. Cotton is not his own; borrowed from the New England  
Conservatory of Music.]
10. The Crown of Love, - - - - - C. R. Thomas  
[Our latest find.]
11. Old Home Down on the Farm, - - - - - C. E. Park  
[Mr. Park has been kindly loaned by the Selectmen of Melrose.]
12. Banjo Solo, - - - - - J. E. Adams
13. Finale Chorus.—Medlëy, - - - - -  
[Contains a few familiar songs.]

The jokes used during this entertainment are the best the town affords.

The Mendelssohn Quartette furnish one selection during the "Finale Chorus."

New Costumes.

New Stage Settings.

[OVER.]



»\***LOUPRET,**\*«

**PHOTOGRAPHER,**

51 CENTRAL STREET,

LOWELL. - - - MASS.



2018. 8. 2057

PROGRAMME

.... OF ....

.... HELMSFORD  
CONS.



1896.

2018. V8, 2041

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PRESIDENT

WILLIS P. BURBANK,  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

FREDERICK LAWTON,  
VICE-PRESIDENT-ATTORNEY.



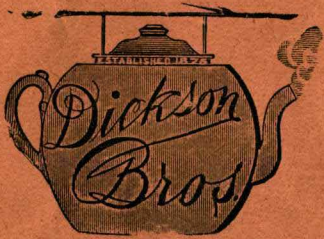
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RESTAURANT.

Cor. Middlesex and Gorham Sts., Lowell.



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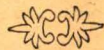
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Fruit of all Kinds. Wholesale Dealers in Bananas.

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. . . . .Dealers in . . . . .

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—MEATS AND PROVISIONS.—

Cor Smith and Liberty Sts, - - Lowell, Mass.

 **ANNOUNCEMENT!** 

*To our Friends and Patrons:*

The Chelmsford Coons, after their hibernation during the season of 1895, have come forth again, refreshed and invigorated by their long rest, hoping to receive from you the cordial welcome that you have extended to them in the past. We take pleasure in presenting to you a fine collection of songs, all of which are new this season, and are selected from a large number sent us from the leading music publishers in Boston and New York. Our opening performance will be given at the **Town Hall, Chelmsford Centre, Thursday Evening, Feb. 20th,** and is entitled

~~~~~ **“THE OLD COUNTRY STORE.”** ~~~~~

The Coons have been rehearsing during the past two months under the direction of Dr. F. R. Rix, and have spared no pains or expense to make this entertainment the best that they have ever given. Hoping to greet all of our old friends, and many new ones, at our opening performance, we remain, yours sincerely,

*The Chelmsford Coons.*

~~~~~ **A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED.** ~~~~~

You certainly must appreciate a Dealer that will save you many Dollars in the purchase of your

**BICYCLE.**

Not only save you expense, but time and annoyances as well. We carry everything pertaining to Cycling.

**Fowlers, Lovell Johnsons, Orients and Warwicks, Diamonds, Daytons, Ring's Special.**

Ladies' and Gents' Bicycles, **\$35.00 to \$100.00.** Cash or Easy Terms.  
Most Complete Repair Shop. Largest Stock. Lowest Prices.

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**JAMES STUART MURPHY,**

Attorney at Law ○ ○ ○  
○ ○ ○ and Notary Public.

Room 24, Hildreth Building, - LOWELL, MASS.

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*Fruits and Confectionery,*

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MY new spring samples are fine. I will make you an elegant Suit for \$18 cash.

LeRoy Parkhurst, Chelmsford.

Buy your **T** at wholesale of

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147 Middle St., Lowell,

AND SAVE MONEY.

*Snyder Dentist*  
118 Merrimack Street.

How do you do?

**CHRIS. HOLMES,**

124 and 126 Merrimack Street.

**LOUIS ALEXANDER,**

Formerly of Fifth Ave., New York,  
Successor to F. W. Emerson,

**IMPORTER and TAILOR,**

65 Central St., - - Lowell, Mass.

**PROGRAMME.—FIRST PART.**

**The Old Country Store.**

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Si Judkins, the store-keeper .....         | J. Adams Bartlett       |
| Sammy Sweet, a model clerk .....           | Clay C. Bartlett        |
| Ben Hoing, an up-to-date farmer .....      | Albert P. Perham        |
| Ezekial Easy .....                         | { Regular } .....       |
| Hi Huckins .....                           | { old customers } ..... |
| Old Joe, an "Ole Tennessee" darkey .....   | Jos. E. Adams           |
| Pete .....                                 | { Old Joe's } .....     |
| Jeff .....                                 | { Pickaninnies } .....  |
| Ike Colligan, a commercial traveller ..... | J. Arthur Spare         |
| Dutchy Pretzels .....                      | Ed. Wirt                |

Songs, recitations, etc., incidental to the first part—"THE OLD COUNTRY STORE."

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Recitation—The Limitations of Youth .....             | Clay C. Bartlett                             |
| Song, with banjo accompaniment—Old Tennessee .....    |  |
| .....   | J. E. Adams, Arthur M. Cotton, Albert Ludwig |
| Song and Chorus—I Guess He Knows the Secret Now ..... | J. Arthur Spare                              |
| Song—That's What! By Gosh .....                       | Albert P. Perham                             |
| Song and Chorus—The Village Choir .....               | Ed Wirt                                      |
| Song—Only to See Her Face Again .....                 | Arthur M. Warren                             |

S. A. BYAM, . . .

SAY—What's the matter with Byam ?  
 (C) He sells the shoes of the town.  
 What's the matter with Byam ?  
 His prices are way, way down.



**BOOTS,  
SHOES  
AND RUBBERS.**

62 Central St., Lowell.

AND

(C) The matter with Byam is this,  
 That when you once trade in his store,  
 You'll be sure to get what you want,  
 And go elsewhere no more.

**W. E. HATCH,  
DOORS, SASH AND BLINDS,**

Window Frames and House Finish, and all kinds of Wood Turning, Brackets, etc.

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CLOTHIERS.**

Corner Central and Prescott Sts., - - Lowell.

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1831. . . .

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**Horse Furnishings and  
Carriage Goods.**

Turf Goods a Specialty Everything for the Horse or  
Carriage. Large and complete line of Harnesses always in  
stock. All kinds of repairing receive prompt attention.

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**WE ALL HAVE HOBBIES** and ride them to our satis-  
faction. No man's pet  
hobby ever gave more satisfaction than we are now producing  
with our up-to-date furnishings. Fondness for fine linen,  
neckwear, etc., is a hobby to be developed and encouraged.  
Our rich and varied assortment is an education in correct  
taste. From our shirts for evening dress and business wear,  
to collars, cuffs, neckwear, half hose, underwear, gloves, etc.,  
all is here in a brilliant aggregation of novelties in materials,  
colors and effects.

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MARKET STREET.

OTIS ALLEN, 2d,

**Dentist,**

GLIDDEN BLOCK,  
LOWELL.

## **PROGRAMME. . . .**

### PART II.

GRAND OLIO. Interlocutor—Charles E. Bartlett. Bones—Walter Perham, J.  
Arthur Spare. Tambos—J. Adams Bartlett, Albert P. Perham. Soloists—  
Edw. Wirt, Tenor; Geo. E. Burns, Baritone. J. E. Adams, Albert H. Davis,  
Chas. Nichols, Harry L. Parkhurst, Arthur M. Warren, Edw. B. Emerson, W.  
B. Cotton, John H. Redman, Erwin W. Sweetser, John H. Wilson, Walter B.  
Emerson, Edw. H. Chamberlain.

Opening Chorus—The Minstrel's Delight, - - - By All the Coons  
END MEN'S SONGS.

When de Shadow of de Moon am on de Levee, - - - J. Adams Bartlett  
I'se Gwine by de 'Lectric Road, - - - - - Walter Perham  
Oh! My Jonah, - - - - - Albert P. Perham  
Don't Forget to Tell Me That You Loves Me, Honey, - - - J. Arthur Spare

### SENTIMENTAL SONGS AND BALLADS.

Sunlight and Shadows, - - - - - Geo. E. Burns  
Golden Love, - - - - - Ed. Wirt  
The Little Stars Are Looking Straight at You, - - - Arthur M. Warren  
Closing Chorus—The Coons' March. - - - - -

The largest and most complete line.

**New and Stylish Silk Waists  
and Skirts** Can Be Found At

**NEW YORK CLOAK AND SUIT CO.,**

12 John Street, Lowell.

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**Jewelers,**

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Groceries, Meats and Provisions.

415 Middlesex and 28 Thorndike Streets.

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EDWARD N. WOOD & CO.,

Successors to S. N. Wood & Co.,

Established 1845.

FLOUR, GRAIN AND HAY,

79, 81 and 83 Market Street, Lowell, Mass.

THAT'S WHAT, BY GOSH!

You may take me for a hayseed,  
 A Rueben or a jay,  
 That's what, by gosh!  
 But you bet I ain't no monkey jack  
 You meet with every day,  
 That's what, by gosh!  
 For I've taken all the prizes  
 Down at the county fair,  
 I can wrestle anybody,  
 From a baby to a bear.  
 I'm a Hick'ry Jackson Democrat  
 That was never known to scare.  
 That's what, by gosh!



Of course it isn't this way in reality, it's only the way a fellow feels when on a good mount. If you want to feel yourself bigger than the town, you can accomplish that end by calling on

GEORGE H. BACHELDER,

23 P. O. Avenue, rear of Traders Bank.

The Fenton, American, Puritan, Syracuse & Packer,  
 YOUR CHOICE FOR \$100.

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|---------|-----|------|---------|-----|------|
| BEN-HUR | - - | \$85 | HECTOR  | - - | \$75 |
| WILHELM | - - | 65   | SPECIAL | - - | 50   |

He knows how to use you, and you will get satisfaction. Repairing and Sundries.

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707 CHELMSFORD STREET.

## WILLIAM A. LANG, GROCER.

### I GUESS HE KNOWS THE SECRET NOW.

I often used to wonder how it is when people die,  
If there's really any truth in what we hear;  
If there's such a place where people have nice golden wings and fly,  
And if preachers give us all a proper steer.  
My old friend Jones was taken ill two weeks ago and died;  
On his dying bed he made a solemn vow  
That he'd return and tell us all about the other side.  
So I guess he knows the secret now.

CHORUS:—I guess he knows the secret now,  
I guess he knows the secret now,  
I would like to know to-night,  
If my old friend Jones is right,  
And if he knows the secret now.

Little Willie used to go to school, dime novels he would read,  
And he bought a hunting knife and gun that shoots.  
He had read about the Indians, and of their cruel deeds,  
So he went out west to kill the savage Utes.  
'Way out there on the western plains poor Willie needs no gun,  
For the Indians placed a wreath upon his brow;  
They all went to his funeral, as they do for every one,  
And poor Willie's pants are vacant now.

CHORUS:—I guess he knows the secret now,  
I guess he knows the secret now,  
In the happy hunting grounds  
Little Willie can be found,  
And I guess he knows the secret now.

## PIANOS, ORGANS, SHEET MUSIC and BOOKS.

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Blankets, Derby and Electric Bandages.



Pastel Portraits  
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BLACKSMITH,

... CHELMSFORD.

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**FLORISTS,**

233 Central Street, - - Lowell.

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**AT LAMPRON'S STUDIO,**

29 CENTRAL STREET,      LOWELL, MASS.

Having sold my old Studio, my friends and patrons will find me at my new headquarters. Over fifteen years' experience.

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**THE DEAR OLD VILLAGE CHOIR.**

I remember, when a boy, the scenes I did enjoy,  
But how dreary seemed the Sunday that I knew,  
And how loth to church I went,  
Though my faults I should repent,  
And was seated in the hard and high back pew.  
There I'd sit through seeming hours,  
Planning schemes and building towers,  
And my mind with brilliant deeds I would inspire;  
But with the organ's roll was wafted to my soul,  
Sweet music from the good old village choir.

CHORUS: Sweet visions of my youth so clear  
Are ever in my thoughts held dear;  
I see dear father's face  
And mother's kindly grace,  
And hear in dreams the good old village  
choir.

---

**WHEN DE SHADOW OF THE MOON  
IS ON DE LEVEE.**

Dar's agwine to be a chicken feast down at Hannah  
Jenkins',  
When de shadow of the moon am on de levee.  
Dar's agwine to be something for to keep the  
niggers thinking,  
While de pickaninnies peepin' in de doah.  
Dar am hoe cake and 'possum fat fryin' in de griddle,  
Whhen de shadow of de moon am on de levee,  
And old Tommy Jameson a playin' on de fiddle,  
While de pickaninnies dance upon de floah.

CHORUS:—Niggers in de barn yard razors in de air,  
All the pretty wenches from de neighbor-  
hood was there.  
So dey all began to whoop,  
Nigger in de chicken coop,  
Look out for Uncle Silas in de mornin'.

---

**Pianos,      Steinert's,**  
**Æolians.**  
**Vocalions, 51 Merrimack St.**

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Agency for

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331 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.  
BEST WORK,      PROMPTLY DONE.

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Entire Outfits. Agents for New Cyclone Range.  
96 TO 100 CENTRAL STREET,      LOWELL, MASS.

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**Black Goods House  
of Lowell,**

198 and 200 MERRIMACK STREET.

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**Surgeon Dentist.**

CROWN AND BRIDGE WORK A SPECIALTY.

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H. L. HIGGINS, Manager.

97 Central Street, Lowell, Mass.

A PERSONAL CALL INVITED.

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# CONNERS BROS.,



Office, 16 Thorndike Street.  
Elevator, Tanner Street.



General Contractors  
and Dealers in

# COAL.

## Wood, Sand, Lime, Cement, and Masons' Supplies.

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**T. D. HARTFORD,**  
Clothing, Hats and Furnishings,  
18 Central Street.

**FARRINGTON,**  
DENTIST,  
407 Middlesex St.

### SUNLIGHT AND SHADOWS.

How often in fancy my thoughts love to roam  
O'er scenes of my childhood, the old cottage home;  
When life was all sunlight, I knew not a care,  
But deep shadows hovered as manhood drew near.  
Sunlight and shadows have all passed and gone,  
Like the refrain of a mother's last song.  
Sunlight! oh, return again, shadows never more.  
Let me be a child again, down by the cottage home;  
Let me be a child again and hear my mother's song.

Ups—I say, old fellow, I've struck it rich. I never  
had such luck. Everything I handle rises ten points;  
everything I touch turns to gold.

Downs—Glad to meet you. Touch me, my boy, will  
you?

One of the Coons had an invitation from a friend in  
Kentucky to go on a hunting expedition. He decided  
to go; but not knowing just what kind of game he was  
to hunt, he telegraphed this message: "All right!  
What shall I bring?" The reply came promptly:  
"Corkscrews; we have the rest."

### I'SE AGWINE BY DE 'LECTRIC ROAD.

I's agwine to take my trabbling bag and start for  
Canaan's land,

I'se agwine by de 'lectric road.

Will you come and join me, darkies, will you join de  
angel band?

I'se agwine by de 'lectric road.

I'se agwine to gib up policy, I'll play de game no  
more,

I'se had enough of gigs and four eben forty-four.

I'se agwine to trabel, darkies, I'se agwine to  
Canaan's shore,

I'se agwine by de 'lectric road.

CHORUS:—Den wake up, my breddren, when you  
hear de train a comin',

Oh, hustle, get ready, for I tell you we go  
hummin',

And start for Canaan at de breaking' of  
de day,

I'se agwine by de 'lectric road.

**J. H. JEANNOTTE & CO.,** No. 7 Hurd Street,  
**BICYCLE HOSPITAL.**  
Victors and Waverlys.

## American Orchestra

LOWELL, MASS.,

Furnishes music for all occasions for which an orchestra may  
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Lowell, Mass.  
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Don't Forget when your TEETH NEED FILLING to give . . . .

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**F. B. HILL & CO.,**

[Successors to G. F. Hill.]

All Kinds of Business Wagons.  
**CARRIAGE REPAIRING A SPECIALTY.**

Established 1865.

346 and 350 Middlesex Street, - LOWELL, MASS.

**THE LITTLE STARS ARE LOOKING STRAIGHT AT YOU.**

My sweet and winsome sprite,  
I know that every night  
The little stars are looking straight at you.  
They cannot help it, dear,  
The truth is very clear,  
The little stars are looking straight at you.  
While tripping down the dell  
With some one at your side,  
The dearest, fairest flower  
In all the world so wide,  
Remember when you say  
You'll be that some one's bride,  
The little stars are looking straight at you.

**Emerson's** is the place to buy your **BICYCLES.**

We have them at all prices, new and second-hand.  
Will take old wheels in exchange for new.  
All new wheels fully warranted.

**REPAIRING A SPECIALTY.**

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**COAL.**

CHELMSFORD, - - - MASS.

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Repairing Promptly Done. E established 1832.

**Lowell One-Price Clothing Co.,**

...DEALERS IN...

**Men's and Boys' Clothing,**  
**Hats and Fine Furnishing Goods.**

Nos. 72 to 86 Merrimack Street, - Lowell, Mass.

CHORUS:—Yes, every pretty star that twinkles in the sky  
Is winking from its dome of radiant blue.  
No matter where you go, my heart it tells me so,  
The little stars are looking straight at you.

We have been trying to make some such pun as this—"Kengott left,"—and experimented on "He Kengitt there," but that don't seem just right—any more than the squabble does—so we have referred the matter to the lessees, not that we wished them to have less ease. It occurs to us that the present *uneasiness* which seems to exist in this religious circus—or circle (we did not mean circus, because in a circus you always know which is the clown) is caused by a lack of on-knee-siness on the part of the brethren. But we will give it up. It's no use to try to extract a joke where there isn't any. The farther we go, the worse it is—just the same as it is down there, too; isn't it? So the committee appointed to arrange the joke ask for further time.

**Hjalmer Carlson,**

...Dealer in...

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**Repairing Neatly and Promptly Done.**

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...SELL...

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The **Coons** and their Friends are always Welcomed at  
**NO. 9 CENTRAL STREET, - - - LOWELL.**

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## DAVIS & NICKERSON, TAILORS.

New Firm, New Goods, New Store.

All The Latest Fabrics.

---

### OH, MY JONAH!

Come, all ye little darkies, and lords and queens and  
marquis,  
And listen to the story I will tell;  
The man's name it was Jonah,  
The whale says, you're a goner,  
And swallowed him up in his great big bel—

CHORUS:—Oh, my Jonah, you're a goner,  
That's what the old whale said;  
But Jonah wasn't cranky,  
Says he, I am a Yankee,  
You bet I'll make him wish that he was  
dead.

And when the whale saw Jonah,  
And said, "you are a goner,"  
He grabbed him by his little kinkey head.  
Says he, "you wicked sinner,  
I'll have you for my dinner;  
You're just as black and sweet as gingerbread."

CHORUS:—"Oh, my, but this is awful,  
I've got a great big jawful!"  
The whale cried out in anguish, horrified.  
"My oil and whalebone plenty,  
I'd give to you, McGinty,  
If you'll help me get that coon outside."

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### DON'T FORGET TO TELL ME THAT YOU LOVES ME, HONEY.

I hab a colored sweetheart and her name's Lucindy  
Jane,  
She is the sweetest yaller gal that lives down in the  
lane;

I meet her almost every night,  
All dressed so fine, way out of sight;  
She tells me, too, she lubs no other coon but me.  
De darkies all am jealous when dey see us passing by,  
Dey size us up and say, "oh, my, but ain't dem nig-  
gars fly."

Yet I don't care what dey all say,  
I lub my lub more every day,  
And lub to hear her when dese words she says:

CHORUS:—Don't forget to tell me that you loves me,  
honey,

If you do then I'll be true;  
Don't forget to tell me that you loves me,  
sonny,

If you do, good-bye to you.  
Don't forget to tell me when you have no  
money,

If you do I won't lub you.  
For I lubs you, honey, when you gives  
me all your money,

If you do then I'll be true.

---

**GEO. L. CADY & SONS, Cor. Western Ave. and Fletcher St., Lowell, Mass.,**

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

## Bicycles all Grades, also Bicycle Sundries.

Repairing of All Kinds at Machine Shop. Call and See Us.

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### PIANOS AND MUSICAL GOODS,

UMBRELLAS REPAIRED and RE-COVERED,

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Also Shingles, Clapboards, Mouldings, Laths, Pickets, Posts  
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The best cleansing compound ever discovered for  
Gloves, Ribbons, Laces, Silk Hose, Coat Collars,  
and all articles soiled with dirt or grease.

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**The Merrimack Clothing Co.,**

Opposite City Hall, Lowell, Mass.

Clothing, Hats and  
Gents' Furnishings.

Headquarters for A. Shuman & Co.'s  
Fine Clothing.

**GOLDEN LOVE.**

Once more we meet beside the silver river,  
Not as we parted in the by-gone days,  
When storms of fate had torn our bonds asunder,  
And clouds obscured the golden love dawn's rays.  
Once more we meet and cancel old regrets,  
Once more we meet and hand clasp hand again,  
Never to ask if one of us forgets,  
Never to think of by-gone hours of pain.  
Once more we meet when sunset gilds the heavens,  
Meet as we parted, loyal, brave and true;  
Only the hand of time has touched us gently,  
Changing, perchance, our hair to whiter hue.  
Once more we meet, the lonely hours are o'er,  
Once more we meet and own the past was best,  
Never to part, O darling, nevermore,  
Until the angels call us home to rest.

**A. L. BROOKS & CO.,**

**Packing Boxes,**

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Saw Mill at North Chelmsford.

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CHELMSFORD, MASS.

A. W. HOLT.

CHAS. T. MELVIN.

"Oh, what rapture!" said Augustus,  
As he swung upon a gate  
With a maiden fair beside him  
Till the hour was drawing late.  
"Oh, what rap'd yer?" asked a fellow  
Who o'erheard him howl in pain.  
"I don't know," replied Augustus,  
"But I suppose the old man's cane."

LOWELL EXTRA SUPER CARPETS  
AT 45 CTS.

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PARK'S • CHELMSFORD • CREAM.

Ice Cream Furnished for all Occasions.

A. H. PARK & SON, So. CHELMSFORD.

COONS' MARCH.

The colored troops are coming now, Oh, watch them passing by,  
Each one of them does try to catch some lady's eye;  
In uniforms of blue and gold, I tell you they look grand,  
As they keep step behind the band.  
Note their martial bearing, heroes ev'ry one,  
See their swords and bay'nets blazing in the sun;  
Many noble warriors, what a charming sight,  
It would fill each darkey bosom with delight.

Forward marching, step left and right,  
Solid columns, what a handsome sight!  
Friends applauding, spirits so gay,  
Hold your breath, the coons are out to-day, rah! rah! rah!

Forward marching, step left and right,  
Solid columns, what a handsome sight!  
Friends applauding, spirits so gay,  
Hold your breath, the coons are out to-day.

The flags they float above them now, they march in perfect time  
To military chime, their feet almost keep rhyme;  
Their shining blades before them now, commanding point the way;  
Their duty now is to obey.  
Note their martial bearing, heroes ev'ry one, etc.

THE H. R. BARKER MFG. CO.,

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# COOK, TAYLOR & CO., Central St.

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"The Old and Reliable" take on new life for 1896, and will carry a larger, more completely assorted line of goods **you will all want** during the coming Spring and Summer, than we have ever been able to show you before.

Our great sale of Ladies', Misses', School Girls' and Little Children's Ready-to-Wear **Cotton "Under-Clothing"** of every kind is now on sale. The quality of material used is the best, and the prices full as low as a year ago, when Cottons were 20 per cent. lower in price. **Silk Waists, Separable Skirts** from our own workrooms. These are made to fit perfectly. The assortment to select from is varied and embraces cheap, medium and fine materials, all well made and stylish in shape, at moderate prices.

**Just Now** we are selling at "Special Sale" prices, viz., **61** cents and bought of the man who made them in Germany at about half real value. We shall sell the 4 Button length, worth 89 cents a pair, at **61** cents; the 5 **77** cents, about 25,000 pairs Ladies' **Fresh** Imported Kid Gloves which we Foster Hooks, worth \$1.00, at **77** cents, and this right in the face and eyes of an advance upon these two styles of from 50 cents to \$1.00 a dozen, when we place our order again. They come in Browns, Tans, Slates, Modes, Black, White and London Red colors. You are all paying from 23 cents to 28 cents more a pair for no better Kid Gloves than these which we offer you at **61** cents and **77** cents for any size or color.

We shall open about 100 dozen New Spring Styles of Perfect Fitting Wrappers, made from Print, Cambric, Percale, etc., at from **75** cents to **\$1.75** each about the 10th of March. Come and see us whether you wish to buy or not.

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# COOK, TAYLOR & CO., Central St.



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LOWELL, MASS.