

Slipper's Soliloquies

by Fred Slipper

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From England To Hamilton

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I was visiting with a young fellow a couple of days ago and he was telling me about his school work, and his plans for the future. This is one of the wonderful advantages of living in America - you can plan your future and study in whatever field you chose.

This reminds me of a story my dad used to tell me years ago. He was born in England and in those days there was a great deal of class consciousness. Fortunately he was born into what was considered upper class. His father owned considerable land and had the title of "Esquire." which in those days was similar to a judge here. Dad had three sisters and four brothers.

Things went pretty much on where you rated on the totem pole, and dad was third among his brothers. The oldest son was expected to follow his father's footsteps and those following could be claimed by an uncle. By the time it got to dad one of his uncles who was a doctor thought it would be nice if dad studied medicine. So off he went to Guy's Hospital, which was the top hospital in London, and is still world renown.

As dad used to tell me, he just didn't like medicine. In fact, the sight of blood would nauseate him, so you can see he wouldn't be a very good doctor. He stuck with it, but just before he was to graduate he went to his uncle and asked to be released from his family duty. Apparently his uncle was an understanding man, and knew dad's feeling about the medical profession, and he did release him from his obligation.

As this was not considered the thing to do, dad's father apparently didn't think too much of his son not fulfilling the old family tradition. So dad decided maybe he should seek his fortune elsewhere and he sailed for Canada.

(This will be continued next week, hope you can wait)