

SAMUEL KELLY THE MISER

There died on the island a few months ago an aged citizen named Samuel Kelly, aged 82 years. Even when a boy he showed a decided bent for making money, and keeping it also. When he reached manhood he united the characteristics of Daniel Dancer, the miser, and that of the famous Captain Kidd ; for he hoarded his money, and then buried it.

Sam Kelly became the most unique character on the island. He established a little store, but paradoxical as it may seem he could never be found there ; no man's foot was allowed to cross the threshold.

The owner would call on the natives every morning, get their orders, and deliver the goods in the evening. There never lived a more thorough miser. He visited nobody, never entered a church, never gave a cent to charity, never had a decent coat on his back in all his life, and probably never sat down to a well-prepared meal.

As there was no other store on the island, his neighbors knew that he must be making money and hoarding it. Every man, woman and child was aware that there must be a fortune hid away somewhere in his cabin, for some of his neighbors had caught a passing glimpse through the window of the miser gloating over a great pile of gold coin.

Of all the passions that move men, none found lodgment in the being of this singular man. Neither affection, friendship or even love, ever stirred him out of himself, and like Sir Galahad, he could truly say :

“ My knees have bowed 'fore crypt and shrine,
I never touched a maiden's lips, or, held maidens hand in mine.”