

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIV

6-3-92

No. 22

PAT FLYNN AND HIS RECEIPT



Emma C. Root above, one time President of the Orleans County W.C.T.U. was an eye and ear witness to the following account, which actually took place in one of Orleans County's dry goods stores, and thinking it too good to keep sent the story to the Youth's Companion for which she received a substantial check in the 1890's.

Her account is as follows: "I was trading in a village store, when one of the clerks came to the junior partner who chanced to be waiting on me and said "Won't you please step to the desk a minute, Pat Flynn wants to settle his bill and insists on having a receipt."

"The merchant was evidently annoyed, and said 'Why, what does he want of a receipt? We never give one, simply cross his account off the book, that is receipt enough.' 'So I told him,' answered the clerk, 'but he is not satisfied. You had better see him.' So the proprietor stepped to the desk, and after greeting Pat with a 'good morning' said, 'You wished to settle your bill, did you?' To which Pat replied in the affirmative. 'Well,' said the merchant, 'there is no need of giving you a receipt. See! I will cross your account off the book,' and suiting the action to the word he drew his pencil diagonally across the account. 'That is as good as a receipt.' 'And do ye mane that settles it?' asked Pat. 'That settles it,' said the merchant. 'An ye're shure ye'll never be after askin me fur it again?' 'We'll never ask you for it again,' said the merchant decidedly. 'Faith then,' said Pat, 'I'll be after kapin me money in me pocket, for I hav'nt paid it yet.'

"The merchant's face flushed angrily as he replied 'Oh, I can rub that out.' 'Faith, now, and I thought the same,' said Pat. It is needless to add that Pat obtained his receipt."