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Comments on the Cartoon.



LIGHT ON AN OBSCURE PASSAGE.—There is a passage in the Old Testament referring to the insatiability of the horse-leech and its daughters, which has puzzled a good many Bible-classes. Whatever may be the precise meaning of the figure, the people of Canada cannot fail to recognize it as a very apt illustration of the C. P. R. syndicate, which, having already absorbed millions of our hard-earned money, is reported to be on the point of applying to Parliament for another sop. This time the application is to be made for a mere trifle—some \$10 000,000 or thereabouts. We are inclined to credit this report, because its truth has been vigorously denied by high-up representatives of the Railway. It is not to be

a gift or a loan this time, however, but a fair exchange of lands and privileges (which Parliament should never have given away) in return for solid cash. Need we say that this application, in whatever form it is put, will be granted? We needn't. Let us get what consolation we may from the reflection that this is the final, ultimate, and last time of asking.

THE GHOST AT THE BANQUET.—Did any of the guests at the Chamberlain banquet notice the peculiar shadow on the wall cast by the Right hon. gentleman, when he was on his feet orating so eloquently against Unrestricted Trade? It may have been only MR. GRIP's imagination, but the shade seemed to be that of a great big Radical, and the gestures were just like those which in Birmingham accompany denunciations of the idiocy of Protectionism in all its forms, and the especial silliness of Tariff walls between nations geographically connected. And yet this shadow was cast by a Diplomatist, who was at the moment showing that Free Trade between Canada and the United States meant ruin to Canada and dismemberment of the British Empire.

THE Citizen who Knows It All was around bright and early on the morning of the 3rd, explaining with his usual lucidity the reasons which had led him to regard the defeat of Mr. Rogers as inevitable. His expositions of the philosophy of the situation were as profound and convincing as they always are, and did credit to his Great Head. The Citizen who Knows It All generally forgot to state, however, that he lost a few trifling wagers he had placed against Mr. Clarke.

* * *

AMONGST the elements which contributed to the result, according to the post-election philosopher, was the fact that the workingmen's vote went solidly for Clarke. So it did—in the philosopher's mind—but not in the ballot-boxes. There is no more reason to suppose that the workingmen voted as a unit than that the idlers did so. Both Mr. Rogers and Mr. Defoe got a fair share of the vote in question. The day is happily past for solid labor votes in contests which do not involve any principle to make such solidity rational.

* * *

THE Board of Trade banquet to Rt. Hon. Joseph of Birmingham, proved a very grand affair. Joseph surpassed himself in the matter of eloquence, and a few of the local guests, who, happily, were called upon to speak, got rid of a quantity of pent-up loyalty which, had it been restrained much longer, would undoubtedly have caused a disastrous explosion. The Commercial Unionists got little comfort from the guest of the evening. He diplomatically frowned upon the scheme as a short cut to annexation; and, as a counterblast, he sounded the praises of the Grand Old Land. Joseph's cry was as of old—There's corn in Egypt yet!

* * *

NO young man ever had a finer opportunity to do a good thing for himself than Mr. Edward F. Clarke has this blessed day! How many an earnest, struggling, brave-hearted student has dreamed—and dreamed in vain—of having just one such golden chance to show the world his mettle! Edward Clarke, like a favorite of Fortune, has been lifted gently to a position which many a worthy man would think an ample reward for years of earnest toil and care. The momentous question—important for the city of Toronto, but all-important for our young Mayor himself—is: What will he do with this splendid opportunity?

* * *

O, EDWARD CLARKE,
 Give ear and hark,
 Strive manfully to make your mark!

There, our thought is out! It was too deep for expression in mere prose. Yes, Edward, make your mark! You can make a great record in one short year if you start right and keep straight on. What the people of Toronto delight in after all is a man of sterling principle, and a clean, honorable and successful year in the civic chair means for you a seat in the House at Ottawa, or any other honor it is in our power to give you, or which you may wish to receive.

* * *

BUT better and higher than any outward reward, however enviable, is to have your name enshrined in the heart of the people, and no man ever yet achieved that honor except by a display of the virtues and graces which make up a true manhood. Look at William H. How-