

CORNERED.

When a debater on a public platform, in the heat of controversy, is so incautious as to permit himself the dangerous indulgence of "illustrations," and begins to cite in support of his contentions, instances and examples which are quickly shown, or are perceived by his hearers, to be absolutely destructive to his own propositions, he can scarcely complain if the audience laugh at him. But when a controversialist in the public press commits the same error there can be small excuse, if any, for so much carelessness. Two redemptive courses are open to the maledictor writer—first, and best, silence; second, to turn it off with a laugh, which requires cunning management.

Unfortunately for its own position the morning paper has adopted the second course in attempting to explain to the public its laughable mistake (on the constitution question, too), in citing the cases of the Australian colonies in support of its argument regarding the British Columbia government. As we showed clearly last Saturday, the Colonist "put its foot in it" rather badly there, and we were in no wise surprised, though much amused, to observe that the Colonist took refuge in flippancy as the only possible reply to our exposure of its odd blunder. We do not think our contemporary will go so far from home next time to "point a moral and adorn a tale." We can assure the morning paper its talents could be profitably employed now in an attempt to explain to the public upon what constitutional grounds the Lieutenant-Governor will be justified in refusing to grant Mr. Semlin an appeal to the country, in the event of the premier deciding upon that course.

The morning paper would also render the public a service if it could mention the name of one man on the opposition benches who is fit to be trusted with the leadership. While we are at it, we should also like to ask the Colonist whether it has raised its veto from Mr. D. M. Eberts, the man whose "strange silence," when confronted with the worst charges that can be brought against any minister of the crown, so abominably worried the Colonist about a year ago, and to whom the Colonist read one of the smartest moral lectures we have ever noticed in its columns. Will the Colonist further enlighten the public as to whether it is really in earnest in advocating the return of power to any member of the disgraced former ministry? The public are decidedly interested and would like to know.

AN INDEPENDENT OPINION OF TUPPER.

The Rosshand Miner is not a partisan paper, and on Dominion questions generally expresses an impartial opinion. While giving credit to Sir Charles Tupper for the speech made in Rosshand, as a splendid rhetorical effort for a man of advanced years and necessarily impaired vigor, the Miner says that as a political speech it certainly was not a success. The views of the Miner are worth quoting:

"The fault for this (the failure to arouse enthusiasm), does not lie at Sir Charles's door, but at that of the present Dominion government, which has left him nothing to criticize, but which has administered the general affairs of the country during the past three years with an honesty and wisdom which have given no real ground for complaint. His chief quarrel with the present administration was that it had stolen the policy of the Conservative government and had fulfilled none of its pledges in regard to the tariff. Non-fulfillment of pledges is the unceasing cry of an opposition against the party in power. It is the necessary foundation of all constitutional opposition, and the people understanding this are not disposed to regard it with attention unless specific proofs are adduced against a government such as will show that it has deviated, to the detriment of the country, from the policy which gained for it the votes of the people. Sir Charles, unfortunately for himself, is unable to do this, nor did he make any attempt to do it. He dealt in generalities, which had no effect, and could not possibly have any. The Liberals have, in many instances, materially altered the tariff for the country's benefit; but had they not done so what quarrel have the Conservatives with them? If the government found when it came into power that the Conservative policy was best adapted to the country it was surely a wise and right thing for them to abandon their own and adopt that of their opponents. It must not be forgotten, too, that it was not on a question of tariff policy that the Liberals were elected to power. The Conservatives were defeated because their administration was so dishonest and so corrupt that the country would no longer endure it. They had been so long in power that the rankiest abuses had sprung into existence and the departments of government were employed for the spoliation and corruption of the people. Under the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier the country has enjoyed an unusual degree of prosperity; the public finances have been honestly administered and the public interests carefully guarded. In the past three years there has grown up a national sentiment which did not exist under previous administrations, and the strong imperialistic feeling which animates the people of Canada, as it never animated them before, is due in no small measure to the sagacity and patriotism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That the country has made such progress and enjoys such content may not be due entirely to the wisdom and ability of the administration, but any fair-minded man will admit it must have had no little share in bringing about such a happy condition of affairs."

FRENCH AT COLESBURG.

To-day's reports from South Africa heat out with singular fidelity the predictions of an ex-army officer who, in conversation with a member of the Times editorial staff last evening, subjected the story of yesterday's dispatches to a little expert criticism which, though distinctly discouraging to one filled with enthusiasm and patriotism over the achievement of French's force, was only too plainly a harshly correct statement of the position. "Mind you," said this gentleman, "don't for a moment think that we who have been in the service do not long just as heartily as the general public for news of victory in South Africa, but that account of French's move was too evidently lacking in essential particulars to gain the entire confidence of men who know something of military evolutions, and who have been studying this campaign most faithfully."

He then went on to point out a few gaps in the message which tallied almost to a nicety with the secondary accounts now coming in. For example, there was the difficulty of a comparatively small force like French's outflanking without extreme danger to its own flanking parties a force of Boers estimated at five thousand. It is a notorious fact that the Boers favor an extremely long line of battle; even where there are only some hundreds of them they cover a front of more than a mile. Certainly with any such force as five thousand the Boer line would run out to something like five or six miles; the Boer army before Buller covers a front of sixteen miles. Therefore the difficulty of any but a very strong force turning the Boer flanks at Colesburg, can be seen. The detached squadrons would be taking enormous risks in such a country, and with the disastrous examples of the other commanders in thinning out their line to a dangerous feint and committing the fatal error of splitting up their main body into weak detachments, French, in the opinion of the military man referred to, would hardly attempt any complicated movement of that kind.

That General French's movement had somewhat different results from those stated in yesterday's dispatches he was sure the later reports would show, and they have done so. The facts are apparently, that General French attacked the Boers in their strong position in the hills around Colesburg, and with so much vigor and persistency as to compel them to yield ground and seek a position farther out of range of the excellently served British field artillery. The Boers appear, from the latest dispatches, to have retired in good order, and picked their fresh lines with deliberation. Nightfall ended the fighting, and so far as can yet be gathered the two armies sat down opposite each other, to wait for day-light. During the night the Boers were strongly reinforced and returned to their original position of the previous morning, prepared to resume the battle where it had opened.

The silencing of the Boer artillery is little to go upon. The Boer gunners know when the British fire is becoming dangerous, and as guns are precious articles to the republicans, seeing there are no more to replace them when destroyed, they are carefully withdrawn in ample time from a menacing fire and placed in positions of greater security. The guns alleged to have been silenced yesterday are reported to be making plenty of noise to-day. Another thing, General French himself reports to-day that he is in the same spot upon which he began operations against the enemy two days ago.

What is the lesson from all this? Simply what has been said by the best judges of the matter—that the road to Pootfontein will have to be won by hard fighting from an enemy who will stubbornly dispute every foot of the way, and that our brave army's progress must necessarily be slow until the reinforcements now on the way reach those generals who are now on the southern border of the Orange Free State. General French asks for reinforcements, and it will be a very unfortunate thing if he does not get them at once so as to enable him to dislodge the Boers from Colesburg, as he mentions in his message to the war office.

It must be remembered that General Buller is absorbing practically all the troops going to the Cape in order to enable him to make a supreme effort for the relief of Ladysmith, and we have the assurance from military men that great good could be accomplished by sending from Port Elizabeth, East London and Capetown seasonable reinforcements to the generals along the Orange River. With a few thousand more men these commanders could take strong action, whereas now with their small forces they must be exceedingly cautious and in effect refrain from the offensive.

Upon General Buller, who is expected to strike with all his force at any hour, hangs the decision whether there is to be a quick finish to this war or a long, wearisome, bloody struggle. If he fails again it will assuredly be the latter. If he shatter the main Boer army the republican resistance will soon collapse. Once more the hope of the British people rests upon the commander on the Tugela and his splendid army. Within the week there should be news of great events in Natal.

CONSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE.

One thing our morning contemporary evidently forgot in its attempt to-day to answer our question as to why the Lieutenant-Governor should decline to grant to the Premier an appeal to the people,

in the event of that course being deemed expedient by Mr. Semlin and his colleagues. The precedents cited by the Colonist have no bearing at all upon this case, because the case of this province at the present time is without a precedent.

No government was ever deprived of office upon charges so utterly disgraceful as those upon which Lieutenant-Governor McInnes felt it his bounden duty, in the interests of honest government, to expel the Turner administration from power in the autumn of 1898. Not one of those charges has been disproved; they stand to-day as black and as heavy as they were on the day upon which they were made known to the astonished and indignant public. The members of that disgraced ministry occupy seats on the opposition side of the legislative assembly to-day, and it is this anti-public clique the Colonist desires to see occupying the treasury benches. If this be the Colonist's conception of public morality we cannot compliment that journal.

In the event of the Premier requesting His Honor to grant him an appeal to the people and His Honor declining to accede to that request, upon whom would His Honor's choice fall as the leader of the new government? Could he as a conscientious man call upon any member of the Turner ministry, whom he himself dismissed from office little more than a year ago, to take the leadership? No man who knows Lieutenant-Governor McInnes would for a moment believe that he would take any such action. To do so would be to stultify himself, admit that he had been mistaken in his charges against those unfaithful stewards, and to withdraw the just and well-proved charges against them. Either that or it would be compounding with them in their dishonesty and ministerial malpractice. Both views are equally absurd. The members of the late ministry are therefore impossible as candidates for government in this province. Who then is there in that house, on the opposition side, upon whom His Honor could call to form a new ministry? All that side of the house supported the Turner ministry, and are therefore as ineligible to be trusted with the guidance of public affairs in this province as the ringleaders of the spoliators band.

This is the thing the Colonist forgot in its dissertation on the constitution this morning. The position is a most curious one, and the way out is past the Colonist's guessing we fancy. Shall we turn on a little illumination for the benefit of our befogged friend over the way? The Colonist is expecting a government defeat in the house, but there is no indication that the government will be defeated; we believe the government of Mr. Semlin will carry on the business of the province until the limit of its prescribed term. The critics of that government have signally failed to prove their noisy charges against it quite as signally as they have failed to remove one jot or tittle of the disgrace which rests upon the immediate predecessors of that government. None has failed more egregiously than the Colonist to prove its allegations against the government or to make the public believe its spiteful personalities against the several members of the government.

In the house and out of the house the Turner faction, for so many years the secret foes of this province are absolutely unimpaired by the calm, steady refusal of the people of British Columbia to follow their lead or pay any heed to their malicious slanders. The weakness of the Colonist's contention this morning is patent to the most careless reader; it is the brief of the counsel who in his mind believes his client guilty. A year ago it had the honesty to say as much of one of them—David MacBryan Eberts, ex-attorney-general—and it has said nothing on the subject since to advise the public that it has changed its opinion about the man who tried to climb the representation of Her Majesty into submission to his will and into doing a thing which would have been a crime.

The more severely the Colonist and the other apologists of Turnerism let this subject alone the stronger will grow their reputation for common sense.

Seattle has subscribed the neat little sum of thirty-five thousand dollars to pay off the whole debt on its Y. M. C. A. The event is to be celebrated, and the association's bills are to be paid every month, there is to be an extension of the building and an introduction of modern conveniences of all sorts. Nearly every leading business man in the city has identified himself with the movement.

London critics bestow high praise upon Miss Nora Clench, the young Canadian violinist, who gave a concert with orchestra in St. James's Hall, there, a few days ago. Miss Clench is one of Joachim's most accomplished pupils, and for her a great future is predicted by the best judges in the European capitals.

Constipation, Headache, Bilioussness, Heartburn, Indigestion, Dizziness,

Indicate that your liver is out of order. The best medicine to rouse the liver and cure all these ills, is found in

Hood's Pills
25 cents. Sold by all medicine dealers.

Americans Missing

Another Party of Signal Corps Officers Captured by Filipinos.

They Were Engaged Building a Telegraph Line South of Vigan.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 2.—The Herald's Manila correspondent tells of a second party of signal corps officers captured by the Filipinos. The dispatch says: "Lieut. Duffy and ten men of the signal corps were building a telegraph line south from Vigan to meet a party in charge of Lieut. Lenoir, who were building northward."

"Their non-appearance caused a search to be made, and it was found that telegraph poles put up by Duffy had been destroyed and the wires cut."

It is supposed the signal corps were either captured or killed by the rebels.

The first party was captured last Thursday near Talavera, east of Tarsag.

Slavery Abolished.

Manila, Jan. 2.—A naval officer, who has arrived here from Guam, brings a proclamation issued by Capt. Leary, naval governor of that island, decreeing the absolute prohibition and total abolition of slavery, the order taking effect on February 22nd. Capt. Leary also deported all the Spanish priests for reasons which were sufficient for him.

"OPEN DOOR" IN CHINA.

Secretary Hay Reports that Negotiations by the United States Have Been Successful.

(Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 2.—The session of the cabinet to-day was brief, but it was the occasion of the important announcement by Secretary of State Hay that the negotiations with the great powers of Europe and Japan to secure a common understanding for a continued "open door" policy throughout China had been eminently successful, and that favorable responses had been received from Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Japan. The only country addressed which had not yet responded was Italy, and a favorable answer was expected from her.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

(Associated Press.)

Chicago, Jan. 3.—A special to the Chronicle from Honolulu, December 29th, via San Francisco, January 3rd, says: After an interval of thirteen days, in which no cases were discovered, bubonic plague has broken out again. Precautions in the Philippines.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The war department is taking steps to prevent the introduction of the plague in the Philippines, and Secretary Root this morning consulted Surgeon Wyman, of the marine hospital service, regarding the establishment of a quarantine system for the islands.

No Janeiro, Jan. 3.—The bubonic plague has broken out in the city and in the neighborhood of San Paulo.

ACCIDENT TO ROYAL YACHT.

(Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 3.—An attempt made to undo the new Royal yacht at Pembroke this morning proved disastrous. Immediately after she floated the yacht listed thirty degrees to port, and her starboard bilge keel became jammed. The strain was so great that shores sixteen inches square, used in an attempt to prop her, were doubled up and snapped like matchwood. The position of the yacht as this dispatch is sent is critical.

YUKON ROYALTY.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—Commissioner Ogilvie wires from Yukon that the royalty returns for November were \$14,757. Mr. Ogilvie places the estimated revenue at \$14,000, against an expenditure of \$11,188.

FATAL FIRE.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 2.—A fire early to-day in a tenement house at 764 First avenue, incident to which were several thrilling rescues, caused the death of baby Loreta Leonard and the injury of ten other persons, half of whom belonged to the Leonard family.

VILLAGES DESTROYED.

(Associated Press.)

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2.—An earthquake yesterday destroyed ten villages in the Achala Lake district of the government of Tiflis.

VACANCIES IN THE COMMONS.

(Associated Press.)

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—There are at present seven constituencies unrepresented in the House of Commons, and six vacancies in the Senate. It is expected writs for the vacant House of Commons seats will be issued before the assembling of parliament, and that the vacancies in the Senate will likely be filled by that time also.

A NEW CANAL.

(Associated Press.)

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Unless plans fail, water will be admitted to the big new sanitary canal to-morrow. Through the canal the waters of the great lakes will reach the Mississippi river. The new waterway may possibly in the future be utilized as a ship canal.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.

Windsor, Jan. 2.—Mrs. Alice Bennett, aged 70, was burned to death yesterday afternoon at her home in Sandwich East, where she was in a pan on the stove, the fire having ignited the meat.



Corticelli Skirt Protector is a wet weather "insurance policy" for a lady's skirt.

It never shrinks, it cannot pucker the skirt bottom—its colors will not run.

It is steam shrunk before it is dyed—it cannot shrink any more under any possible usage.

Its colors won't run because they are fixed permanently and unfadably when dyed.

Every dress goods shade.

Sewed on flat, not turned over—one or two rows of stitching. Genuine only with this label

Corticelli

It's a Pleasure...



To get such fine fruit as we are selling. The quality has never been better, and our prices enable you to buy the best at the prices of the cheapest. Our store is a wonderland of delicacies for your store dinner. Don't miss them—

French Crystallized Fruits 35c. box
Malaga Table Raisins 25c. lb
Assorted French Nuts 15c. lb
Crosse & Blackwell Plum Pudding 35c. tin
New McLaren's Cheese 35c. jar
Mince Meat, 5 lb. pails 75c
Fresh Island Eggs 40c. dozen
Morgan's Eastern Oysters 75c. tin

Dixie H. Ross & Co.

COL. PETERS'S SUCCESSOR.

Arrives at Vancouver En Route for Victoria—Government Urged to Send Rough Riders to the Transvaal.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, Jan. 2.—Major Benson, successor to Col. Peters, passed through this afternoon to Victoria.

At a mass meeting held yesterday afternoon in the city hall, it was decided to ask the provincial government to provide funds necessary for the sending of from one to five hundred rough riders from British Columbia to the Transvaal. A strong resolution was also passed urging the minister of militia to have some of the British Columbians sent in the second contingent.

MONTREAL NOTES.

(Associated Press.)

Montreal Jan. 2.—Alex. Vallieres, aged 60 years, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor in his own house yesterday.

Thomas Allen, of the well-known firm of Thomas Allen & Co., jewelers, is dead from typhoid fever.

Teller Herbert, of the insolvent Ville Marie Bank, under arrest charged with stealing from that institution, was permitted to dine at home with his mother yesterday, under the surveillance of a detective.

Herbert was before the police magistrate to-day, and remanded till to-morrow.

The extreme cold weather of the past few days has been the cause of a large number of frozen feet, hands, etc., which have been attended to by the city hospitals.

A pretty wedding took place at Westmount yesterday when, at her father's house, Miss Bertha G. Sheffield was married to Mr. Charles Dangerfield Tapel, manager of the C.P.R. hotel at Vancouver. Miss Sheffield's father is manager of one of the transportation branches of the C.P.R. Company. The Rev. T. S. McWilliams performed the ceremony.

TORONTO'S NEW MAYOR.

(Associated Press.)

Toronto, Jan. 2.—The election of E. Macdonald as mayor of Toronto is considered a blow to partyism, which figured prominently in election. E. F. Clarke, M. P., being supported by the Mail and Empire, and Ald. Hattam by the Globe, the successful candidate running as Independent.

INSANE SOLDIERS.

(Associated Press.)

San Francisco, Jan. 3.—Fourteen soldiers, declared to be insane, were to-day sent to Washington from the Presidio military reservation. Nearly all of these men lost their minds as the result of campaigning in the Philippines.

MONTREAL MINING MARKET.

(Associated Press.)

Montreal, Jan. 3.—Stock exchange, morning board: War Eagle rd., 252, 250; Payne, 104 at 102; Montreal and London rd., 35, 34; Republic rd., 110, 106; Sales: Payne, 125, 2,500 at 103, 1,000 at 104; Montreal and London, 3,500 at 35.

EVERYBODY IS COUGHING

Except those who use Dr. Chase's Syrup of Licweed and Turpentine. It loosens the tightness in the chest, stops the cough, allays the inflammation, heals the soreness and promptly cures all sorts of coughs and colds, bronchitis, croup, asthma, and sore throat. It is found in nine-tenths of the homes of this country. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 60 cents.

MARTIN'S MEETING.

'He Will Try to Defeat the Semlin Government.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, Jan. 3.—Joseph Martin, M.P.P., addressed his political supporters last night. He said he would go to Victoria with the express intention of accomplishing the defeat of the Semlin government, and charged that the premier had secured his position dishonestly. He stated that the famous telegram sent by Finance Minister Cotton to Mayor Gordon on the Deadman's Island question was a lie. He still charged that there had been falsification of the records, and mentioned legal action and penitentiary in the discussion of the question. Mr. Martin said he would resign if his course was not satisfactory, and a resolution endorsing his stand was passed. He said he thought Mr. Macpherson would stand with him, but that Mr. Tisdall would side with Mr. Cotton.

NEWFOUNDLAND SHORE QUESTION.

(Associated Press.)

Paris, Jan. 3.—The opinion has been expressed in official circles that the modus vivendi between Great Britain and France regarding Newfoundland will be extended for another year.

There is no article in the line of medicine that gives so large a return for money as a good porous strapping plaster, such as Carter's Smart Weed and Belladonna Backache Plaster.

CANADIAN TROOPS.

(Associated Press.)

Port Elgin, Jan. 3.—Henry Hiker, died yesterday, aged 75 years.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—The directors of the Canada Life Assurance Co. have elected Senator Cox president and general manager.



CURE

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and promoting this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

SICK

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and promoting this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD

ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint, but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after attack head

ACHE

Is the base of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action place all who take them in vibrant health. In each bottle is a full and complete list of druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

CARTER MEDICINE CO., New York.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.