



AB-ORIGINAL WIT.—A BRANTFORD FACT.

THE DIGNIFIED SELF-ABNEGATION ACT.

It is said Lord Salisbury declines the honor of a dukedom for his services in bringing about the Anglo-German agreement.—*Cablegram.*

LORD SALISBURY—"Your Majesty, in my capacity as your principal adviser, I beg to suggest that you confer upon Lord Salisbury, as a private individual, the honor of a dukedom for his distinguished services in bringing about the Anglo-German agreement."

QUEEN VICTORIA—"Yaw, meinheer, dot agreement ist besser as goot. Excuse me, my lord, we are so much in the habit of speaking German among ourselves that I sometimes drop into it inadvertently. Certainly, if you wish to be a duke I have no objection."

LORD SALISBURY—"Excuse me, your Majesty, I did not say I wished to be a duke. I have not considered the question at all except in my capacity as your Majesty's adviser—am I to understand that my suggestion is favorably received?"

QUEEN VICTORIA—"Yaw wohl! I cannot refuse anything to one who has done so much to preserve friendly relations between us and the English—I mean between England and Germany."

LORD SALISBURY—"Then, speaking as Lord Salisbury, in my individual capacity solely and not at present as your adviser, allow me to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude for the honor which your Majesty has graciously proposed to confer upon me but which I must most respectfully beg to decline."

QUEEN VICTORIA (indignant)—"You decline it! What then, did you mean by soliciting it if you didn't intend to accept it? Have some respect for your sovereign, sir! This trifling is unworthy of you! I don't understand it."

LORD SALISBURY—"I humbly beg your gracious Majesty's pardon, but your Majesty is laboring under a wrong impression in supposing for a moment that I solicited the honor."

QUEEN VICTORIA—"This is positively insulting! Why, sir, it is hardly a minute since you urged your services in the matter of Anglo-German agreement as worthy of the reward of a dukedom."

LORD SALISBURY—"Let me crave your Majesty's pardon for taking the liberty of reminding you, gracious madame, that I was then speaking as your responsible constitutional adviser, and not as Lord Salisbury. As the head of the Cabinet, I think that Lord Salisbury ought to be made a duke, but as Lord Salisbury I have powerful personal reasons for declining the dignity."

QUEEN VICTORIA (mollified)—"Very true, my lord. Perhaps I was over hasty in expressing my disappointment at your refusal. I will not detain you further."

LORD SALISBURY (outside)—"These Germans will never be able to understand the niceties of constitutional government. What a state of mind the old lady got into

to be sure! And now to have my secretary send a brief announcement to the newspapers to the effect that 'Lord Salisbury has declined the offer of a dukedom for his distinguished services, etc.' Nothing like the dignified and disinterested renunciation act for catching the British public."

If the Dominion and Ontario Governments keep on making Q.C.'s as they are doing it will not be long before it will be difficult to shy a rock into a crowd of lawyers without hitting a Queen's Counsel.—*World.*

If anybody thinks of shying a rock into a crowd of lawyers don't let him delay till the Q.C.'s get thicker. Throw the rock anyhow—even if you only swat a common practitioner.



THE PROCESSION.

THIS melancholy, mournful set
At the club window glumly sit
To see Dodds' Carnival go by,
While meantime weary hours fly;
"Before it comes," growls Charley Booze,
"We'll owe another quarter's dues!"