

Then you wonder how I became such a "Grit" in England. No, sir, not a "Grit" I abominate any connection with our miserable party politics. You know very well that I never could put up with the scurrility and all that disregard of the proprieties of common decent behaviour, not to mention anything higher, which is so painfully conspicuous in our party strife in Canada. Often have I wondered that so many of our collegiate graduates seemed too ready to plunge into this mire and sell their intellectual freedom for so miserable a "mess of pottage" as the friendship of a party. Remember, I do not speak against our graduates becoming politicians; all men should study politics; if you will, all men should take an active part in politics; but it should be to purify them, and not to add to the list of wirepullers and factionists. But, Sammy, the longer I live the more plainly do I see that a college career, gold medals included, does not necessarily imply a high moral tone, refined tastes, or genuine culture. But why did I feel that if I were to be a resident in England, I must ally myself with the Reform party there? Are there not the same objections to party there as in Canada? Well, there are objections, but the cases are so very different, they cannot be put on the same plane at all. The term Conservative in Canada does not at all imply what the term Tory does in England. Judging by a man's general opinions, by the usual course of his actions, in this country, apart from politics, it would be in most cases quite impossible to say to what side in politics he leaned. But, so far as my observation went, that is rarely the case in England. I have frequently met men, and before we had been in conversation on matters of common interest half an hour, their political tendencies were as plain to me as if

they had been labelled Tory or Radical.

Now, the Tory's belief is so at variance with what men in general hold as political and social axioms in not only the United States but in Canada, that it does seem to me that it is almost impossible for Americans, whether living here or across the line, to be real Tories at heart in the English-meaning of that term. Who believes in America that John the ploughman is a creature of so inferior an order that he cannot be elevated; that it should not be attempted; that such is contrary to the "order of Providence," and such rubbish, *ad nauseam*? Such doctrines would have deprived the world of the illustrious Garfield, the quondam canal-horse driver, whose name will always be associated with the very essence of what is best in American institutions. American institutions did not make Garfield, but they did make him President. Now, I have myself personally conversed with Tories holding just such views as I have indicated above. When trying to explain to one such embodiment of superiority—what American institutions and American creeds, social and political, did for men—he seemed to comprehend the matter with great difficulty, and at last exclaimed, "Why, you seem to be all *canaille* together over there!" But, Sammy, I must not give you too much of this—at least in one letter. However, it seemed necessary to say this much to clear myself from what might appear to you gross inconsistency.

Well, how did you like the company in which I left you at the close of my last letter? In other words, What do you think of the London "bus-man?" I fancy I hear you exclaim, "Why, let me know something of him, and then I will give my opinion." Mr. Toole, the eminent actor, makes him one of his special characters. He