

NEWSPAPER CARICATURE IN CANADA.

HENRY JULIAN AND THE "BYTOWN COONS."

THE MONTREAL STAR has made the journalistic hit of the year with "The Bytown Coons." Week after week the Star readers have laughed over perform-



Henry Julian

ances of the Government minstrels, and since the whole series has been published in book form the interest in it has increased tenfold.

"The Coons" were practically the first cartoons that have appeared in

The Star. Although the paper has always been well illustrated, the management seems to have fought shy of the cartoon, indeed, it is noteworthy that none of the Montreal papers have attempted anything of this nature until recently, though the Western dailies have successfully cultivated the cartoon for years.

The idea, it is said, presented itself to Mr. Henry Julian, The Star artist, while making a sketch of Sir Richard Cartwright. The old knight's features seemed to invite caricature, and Mr. Julian straightway drew him as a colored minstrel singing of his political woes. This seems to have suggested the immense possibilities of a coon band recruited from the Cabinet, so one by one the members of the Government were added until the Bytown troupe was complete. The credit of the verses is divided among several of The Star's clever writers. Mr. Dalby's well-known satirical style may be recognized in some of them, I think, though he is reticent as to his share in the work of composing songs for Government coons.

Mr. Julian is not fond of talking about himself, and he does not like newspaper publicity. But a doctor must be prepared to swallow his own medicine, and I am only performing an act of simple justice to the Ministers with whom he has taken liberties, in putting him through his own mill. In a weak moment he drew his conception of himself for a friend, and from that friend I succeeded in begging it, so that the readers of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER can see the clever artist as he is and as he sees himself. The same pettish friend supplied me with a few facts about the gentleman whose sketches have made the country laugh.

Born in Quebec, Que., Mr. Julian came to Montreal when he was 17 to learn stone engraving with the firm of Desbarats, Leggo & Co., who have long since been succeeded by the Burland Lithographing Co. At that time they published the long defunct Canadian Illustrated News, the leading paper of its kind then, and young Julian's talent for drawing first showed itself in sketches for that paper. In 1894, when the first detachment of mounted police went to the Northwest, he accompanied it as special artist of "The News." He remained with the Desbarats firm and their successors until 1889, when he joined The Star staff. His work there has always been excellent, and latterly it has become so original and bright that I should say it was one of the most popular features of the paper, in fact, I think the majority of Star readers turn to Julian's pictures before looking at anything else. During the last session of Parliament he contributed a series of lifelike pictures of public men, entitled "Lights and Shadows of Parliament," and this session he is making some splendid drawings of the members as they listen to the debates. These are probably his best pictures—the Government minstrels excepted, of course. Mr. Julian's ability is not confined to pen and ink work. A picture in oils, by him, entitled "The Return," was exhibited at the recent Art Exhibition in Montreal. It represents the return of a habitant from market, and is a perfect portrayal of a typical French-Canadian scene.



Mr. Julian is said to be extremely domesticated. He has a large family, and his home interests are all he desires outside of his work.

He has received numerous offers from American papers, but prefers to remain in

Canada on a comparatively small salary to settling in Yankeeland. It is one of the peculiar features of newspaper work that the man whose brains have evolved the clever idea rarely gets any credit for it. Whatever kudos is going belongs entirely to the paper. This is strikingly true in Mr. Julian's case. Thousands have laughed over his "Coon" creations, but only a few like you and I, who are in the business, know anything of the man whose talent and experience have



Unpublished Specimen of Caricature—H. Julian.

produced the funniest and most original collection of pictures ever published in Canada.

W. M. M.

MUCILAGE.

Mucilage is made of gum arabic, of gum senegal, of dextrine, and of a by-product that results in the manufacture of various chemicals. Gum arabic has long been used for its sticking properties, but mucilage in its present form and widely extended common use is essentially a modern production, dating back only about fifty years, or to 1845, at about which time envelopes with gummed flaps came into use. Before that time envelopes had been sealed with a wafer. Manufacturers of stationers' supplies employed considerable numbers of men in making wafers, which were made and sold in many millions. The introduction of gummed envelopes practically killed the wafer trade.

The far greater convenience of gummed envelopes was at once recognized, and they very soon came into general use, and after their introduction the manufacture of mucilage sold in bottles was begun.—American Stationer.

H. W. B. Douglas has acquired the stationery and bookstore of Miller & Douglas, Portage la Prairie, Mr. Miller disposing of his interest to devote his entire time to his duties as postmaster.

Unpublished Specimen of Illustration Work
H. Julian