



THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

WHO'S TO BE TORONTO'S NEXT MAYOR?

BACHELORS BOLD, BEWARE!

OH, beware! take care, ye bachelors, young and old! GRIP raises the voice of warning. Dally not with the dear girls whom you have led to believe you will some day marry; for Nemesis, with a very large N, will swoop down upon you. So bewar-r-re!

A few days ago there was instituted in Toronto a movement which cannot fail to cause a great upheaval among bachelors, both far and near, before the waning of 1892. The Hon. Secretary *pro tem*, at once sent out to hundreds of maidens in Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, Kingston, St. Kits, etc., the following call to arms (not masculine arms, of course):

DEAR MISS BLANK,—Feeling the great unreliability of the marriage market, and knowing that eligible bachelors cannot be brought to the popping point now-a-days, except under exceptional circumstances, it has been thought well that the unmarried ladies of the Dominion should band themselves together to avail themselves of the rights accorded the sex in Leap Year—which, you know, comes next year—and to this end you are invited to attend a meeting in Hymen Hall, Toronto, next Monday evening to discuss the formal organization of a Leap Year Society. From yours lovingly,

TILLIE TREFOIL.

The call was nobly responded to, and the hall was crowded with a mass of femininity from all parts of the Province. Two men, who had dared to peep in at the entrance, went away horror-stricken on seeing the deep-set looks of determination that rested upon the fair features of those in the audience. No less than fifty young ladies were present from Hamilton, and other centres were largely represented.

The platform was gracefully adorned by about twenty sweet damsels, who without impropriety could well be called the ringleaders.

By unanimous consent Miss Flossie Fairone was voted to the chair, and Miss Tillie Trefoil was continued as

secretary *pro tem*. Miss Imogene McTavish, of Hamilton, Miss Josie Jochelon, of Montreal, and Miss Eugenia Toffetot, of Kingston, were specially chosen to support President Fairone. Miss Fairone, looking delightfully lovely, gently tapped the talkative gathering to order, and proceed to explain the reason of the meeting.

"Young ladies," she began, "we are here to discuss a means of organizing so that we can secure every advantage that falls to the lot of unmarried ladies during Leap Year, which will soon be upon us. (Muffled kidglove applause.) Each of you wishes to marry, I know, if you can get the man of your choice (yes, yes, and fluttering of handkerchiefs)—and—and—so do I. (Much merry laughter.) Now, it is too certain a fact that the darlings (yes, bless 'em, and more fluttering) the precious ones (laughter) are altogether too backward in proposing (yes, indeed) and if they won't come to us, why, we must go to them. (Gentle cheering, and evidences of rising enthusiasm.) Next year we, who are not accepted, must leap for our chances, (more enthusiasm) and who knows but that such bold venturing will bring us husbands? (More and more enthusiasm.) To help on that good time, it is proposed to establish a society, and call it the Society for the Promotion of Matrimony, the aims of which Miss Trefoil will unfold to you."

The charming chairwoman sat down to the accompaniment of a choice Chautauqua salute.

Miss Tillie Trefoil gave her golden bangs a shake before lifting her musical voice to tell about the proposed society. Her remarks gave unbounded delight to her hearers. She stated that the society would have branches in all parts of the country and would, to a certain extent, be a secret organization, for on meeting nights information of a valuable nature would be imparted to the members, such as the proper methods of popping the question under variable circumstances, and the announcement of the names of desirable bachelors. Each member, by her sworn promise, would be obliged to propose once to the man of her choice. Under no circumstances whatever could a member propose more than twice in one month.

On the ladies being asked to express their opinions upon the proposal, Miss McTavish, of Hamilton, declared herself as enraptured with the idea, remarking gushingly: "It will be a blessing to the dear girls at home. I can promise you a membership of at least 1,000 from Hamilton." (Applause.)

"Just think," said Miss Toffetot, of Kingston, "how we can fetch 'em by whispering in the dear one's ears, if they show signs of wavering, 'I am a member of the S.P.M.' How they will tremble."

And so it went on; about half a hundred jumping up in rapid succession and enthusiastically endorsing the proposed society, which within an hour became an accomplished fact, with the following efficient officers: President, Miss Flossie Fairone, Toronto; 1st Vice-President, Miss Imogene McTavish, Hamilton; 2nd Vice-President, Miss Eugenia Toffetot, Kingston; 3rd Vice-President, Miss Millie Merrimaid, Montreal; Secretary, Miss Tillie Trefoil, Toronto; Treasurer, Miss Dolly Sweetlove, Hamilton; Inner Preceptress, Miss Helena Fearnought, St. Kits; Outer Preceptress, Miss Marian Vinagrette, Parkdale.

Before 1891 is ended branches of the S.P.M. will have been established all over the country; and when Leap Year sets in, Bachelors, all keep your weather eye peeled or you will be captured before you know it.

J. W. S.