



"UP IN A BALLOON."

MR. LAURIER—"Where are we now, Cartwright?"

SIR RICHARD—"I'm blown if I know; but as near as I can make out we are as far from office as ever!"

#### SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE, ETC.

THE *Mail's* Ottawa correspondent announces that during last session lobbying on behalf of civil servants has been very active and that the Government has determined to put a stop to it. It gives a copy of a circular which has been sent to each employee of the Department of the Interior which begins thus:

"I am directed to draw your attention to the minute of the Treasury Board of January 28, 1879, and ratified since by Order-in-Council, forbidding civil servants to ask for the interference of political influence to obtain increase of salary or promotion to a higher class." It is announced that the Government is determined not to tolerate any infraction of this rule.

This circular doubtless has special reference to the underpaid letter-carriers whose case has been taken up by some of the labor bodies. But there is another class of public employees who receive from ten to twenty times the pay of letter-carriers and are still unsatisfied. Lobbying on their behalf has been persistent, systematic and impudent. Needless to say we refer to the judges—whose claims for increased salaries have been pressed session after session, not only without rebuke but with encouragement from the Government, which thinks it such a grievous offence for the friends of the hard-worked letter-carriers to ask for living salaries on their behalf. Copies of this circular, or one embodying the same principle somewhat altered in phrasing so as to apply to the more insidious methods of lobbying in vogue among their friends might advantageously be sent to the Judges and the Benchers of the Ontario Law Society. The only

reason for making fish of one and flesh of another is that one class is in the swim while the other is not.

#### FROM AN ORIENTAL POINT OF VIEW.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF CHI CHANG WHANG, A DISTINGUISHED CHINESE SCIENTIST TRAVELLING IN ENGLAND TO OBSERVE WESTERN INSTITUTIONS.

\* \* \* ONE singular custom these barbarians have, O Won Lung, which indeed appears so strange and incredible that I hardly dare write it lest I be deemed a liar, for of a truth I could hardly have believed it had I not beheld it with mine own eyes. Know then that these barbarians are ruled by men of their own choosing, less fortunate than we who are governed by the Brother of the Sun and Moon, the Fountain of all Joy and Gladness, the Face Radiant with the Glory of the Noontide Effulgence—whose forty-two other titles I omit for the saving of postage, for verily thou knowest them as well as thou dost the 14,000 letters of the alphabet.

Now the manner of the choosing of the aforesaid barbarian rulers and potentates is this. When they have erected a dais or platform, those who would be chosen to rule appear thereupon in the presence of the people, even the coolies and the lowest caste. And indeed I looked that the rabble should have fallen on their faces and made obeisance, as is fitting. But they abased themselves not, but lifted up their voices mightily with great noise and hooting, and began to revile the man that would be ruler and to call him all manner of foul and evil names. And presently some of them took up stones and whatsoever they might find and did cast them at him with great noise and tumult, and smote him grievously. Thereupon I tarried not longer.

Now I thought that this had been a rebellion and that the leaders of the people would straightway have been led to execution, but having questioned concerning it, I find that it is an old time usage of the barbarians in the choosing of their rulers. And strange as it may seem, O Won Lung, may it not be that there is wisdom and prudence therein? For as thou knowest, the barbarians set exceeding great store by the virtues of courage and hardihood, and so methinks that the man who is able to endure the abuse and revilings of the mob and their cruel stonings and buffetings, must, if indeed he survive the ordeal, be a ruler of great boldness and endurance, and a terror to all enemies, which I cannot doubt was the reason wherefore this ancient custom of the choosing by a test so terrible that no man of a fearful disposition could by any means come to be ruler, was established by the sages and law-givers of the barbarian kingdom. \* \*

#### NOTHING SO LOW.

LADY—"Have you 'Ah there, Robin?'"

MUSIC DEALER—"I never heard of that song miss. Are you sure that is the name?"

LADY—"Let me see. Now I think of it, it is 'Robin. Ah there!' or something like it."

MUSIC DEALER—"Oh, it is 'Robin Adair' you want, no doubt."

LADY—"That's the title, is it? Well, if it's any of these low nigger minstrel ditties I don't think I care about it, thank you. Give me 'Ta-ra-ra-boom de-ay' instead."