

"Oh! well, then; don't be always twitting a fellow about little things," responded Yubbits. "There, *Punch* needn't be hanged, then; will that satisfy you?"

"Quite," replied Coddleby, and harmony was restored.

"Now I propose," said Mr. Bramley, "that we start off with as little delay as possible and see what there is to be seen of this place. Yubbits, pray try and keep your feelings somewhat under control; we have a mission before us, and the eyes of a large portion of the world are upon us."

Mr. Yubbits said nothing in reply to this, but merely stated that he was ready to go and "do" Ottawa as he termed it.

Having debated for a length of time the propriety of employing a guide, our friends consulted the urbane clerk of the hotel who highly recommended one Monsieur O'Brallaghan, a gentleman who for several years had acted in that capacity, and whose intimate acquaintance with the young gentlemen of the great Parliamentary buildings guaranteed him a favorable reception under all circumstances and at all times. It may be mentioned that the city of Ottawa, the metropolis of the great Dominion, is a suburb of the immense palatial structure known as the Parliament Buildings. The upper town differs from the lower in being more British and on the other side of the canal. The natives are known as "shiners," and the lower town is the happy possessor of a motly population, an unromantic market house, several third-class hotels and a very Bendamere of pellucid water known as the By-wash. The area of the whole city is about two square miles, in reality; in fiction founded on the hopes of those who made it a capital, at least twenty-five. Its position may be discovered on any respectable map by a due regard for latitude, longitude and assiduous research.

It is an established evidence of that great foresight so characteristic of the British mind, that By-town was transformed into Ottawa and created a metropolis, for it may be fearlessly asserted that had such not been the case some other place would have been so dignified; perhaps Toronto; possibly Cayuga, with remote chances in favor of Orangeville. One great peculiarity is that the population is fluctuating and depends entirely on the number of office-seekers who cannot find an outlet for their ideal great ability, which class abounds in Canada, even surpassing their brotherhood in the model Republic. Living is cheap here, as boarding-house keepers are so well accustomed to run-away guests, that a person able to pay in advance receives the best of accommodation tintured with heart-felt gratitude. Lumber and legitimate ability are the chief productions of this wonderful city, and it also affords an excellent school for self-denial on the part of those whom the Queen delighteth to honor with a salary of \$50,000 a year, and the prospect of being embalmed in a few lines by the future Dominion historian.

This brief but reliable description of the city being concluded we will now return to our friends, who are in the meantime awaiting the appearance of their guide.

Toussaint L'Ouverture O'Brallaghan was a gentleman of mingled Irish and French ancestry, and possessed in a great degree the characteristics of these two great people: good-natured and witty, polite and self-esteeming, he was a universal favourite. In physical attainments he was of the five feet four style of architecture; slim, dark-haired, his locks clustering about his neck, his moustache of the same hue carefully combed and waxed, with imperial *a la* Napoleon III.; small hands and feet encased in the newest styles of gloves and boots; faultless dress and complete self-possession made him the very *beau ideal* of

a guide, and even the fastidious and exacting Bramley acknowledged him quite an acquisition, and as he entered the office in obedience to the clerk's summons he stood revealed every inch a man; his bow would have done honor to the days of Versailles, and his "I have the honor to await your orders, gentlemen;" won for him at once the good-will of our friends, who expressed their desire to visit the Parliament Buildings and other metropolitan objects of interest. This statement was briefly completed by the clerk's explanation that they were gentlemen of means and leisure, who, combining pleasure with profit, were making the grand tour, with the ultimate design of giving to the world their impressions of men, manners and things in general as existing in the new world.

Mr. O'Brallaghan bowed and devoted himself entirely to their interests; expressed himself in the choicest terms, lamented in self-depreciation his inability to do justice to the extent of his desire and lived in the hope that his humble exertions would meet with the approbation of the gentlemen who did him the great honor of placing confidence in his knowledge and ability. The terms being settled, and a vehicle provided, in a few moments the entire party stood at the entrance to the beautiful grounds, wrapt for a few moments in speechless admiration of the magnificent structure. Coddleby was loud in its praise, compared it with the Parthenon, the Colliseum, the Escorial, the Alhambra, the Luxembourg, the Mosque of Omar, the Kremlin, and the buildings in Westminster. "Behold," said he, "the exquisite combination of the Doric and Ionic: yonder see the Corinthian and the Gothic, struggling as it were for pre-eminence: the Etruscan there, in magnificent contrast to the Gothic, and the composite here mellowing as it were, while, in a way, coquetting with the Arabesque. Talk of Sans Souci, Fontainebleau, the Pratz, and Chatsworth! Even Vauxhall, Cremorne or Kew!" The note books of the others rescued from oblivion the remarks of the speaker, and the guide clasped his hands and lifted his eyes in mute but eloquent acquiescence.

They passed into the spacious halls: critically examined the magnificent picture gallery; the extensive library; the awe inspiring senate chamber; the majestic throne, and all the paraphernalia of a responsible government, viewed in the abstract. The different departments were in turn visited, and the numerous little cabin like rookeries in which embryo patriots and statesmen whiled away their time in reading the newspapers, magazines and very lightest literature of the day, varied by nearly an average, per diem, of one and a half hour's work, attracted a fair share of attention. They were courteously received, and were gratified to overhear themselves called distinguished visitors, literary men, scientists and so forth. The demeanor of the younger clerks was especially flattering and each of our friends in turn timely checked the impulse to distribute shillings and half-crowns among them; but these youths know a thing or two in Ottawa; their eyes have beheld royalty its self, and many of them treasure in their hearts the recollection of the few words vouchsafed to them by the grandees of the old world, who have done Canada the high honor of devoting a few of the hours of their precious lives and time to making it happy.

On leaving the buildings Bramley expressed his great satisfaction with the visit, and, addressing the guide said,

"I suppose the good people of this country greatly admire this magnificent pile. Is it not so?"

The dapper little gentleman assented,