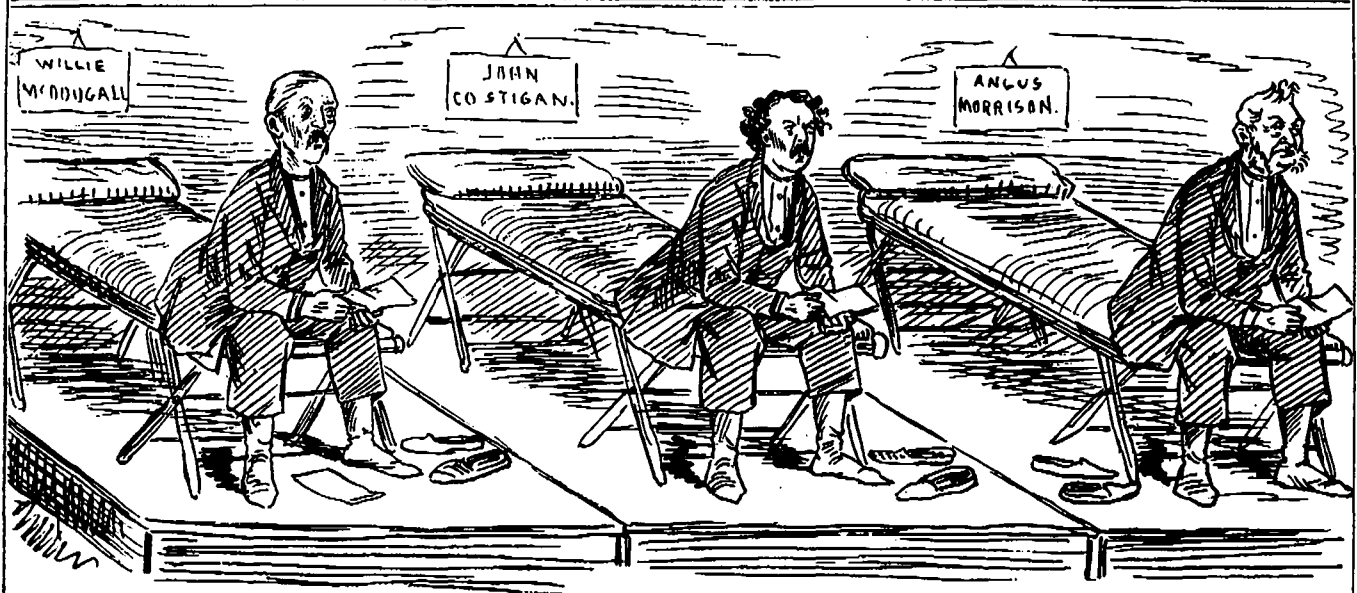


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The Political Dr. Tanners.

Now that public attention is turned to the subject of fasting, we are sure our readers will be interested in a brief account of an experience in this line which is not only remarkable but authentic. In fact, the performance is going on at the present time in this very country, and the participants are three distinguished public men. To enhance the reality of this fact, Grip has gone to the expense of securing the portraits of this trio of fasters, and presents them *a la Tanner* in this number. It is only right to remark that the test that these gentlemen are undergoing differs from that of the New York doctor in one insignificant particular, namely, that their fast is *compulsory* whilst his is *voluntary*. The first individual of the group is Hon. WILLIE M'DUGALL, who has displayed the most marvellous staying powers, having gone entirely without pap of any kind for several years. He has subsisted entirely on wind, and expresses himself confident of holding out. Next in order comes Mr. JOHN COSTIGAN, whose experience has been almost as wonderful as that of his colleague M'DUGALL. This gentleman's plan for nullifying the pangs of hunger is to keep his mind constantly occupied with the records of Ministerial generosity to Roman Catholics. The ever recurring rumours of vacancies on the Bench and changes in the Cabinet have a most stimulating effect upon his empty stomach, and he finds but little difficulty in going on from hope to hope. In fact it may be literally said Mr. COSTIGAN is living on hope. The third member of our group will at once be recognized as Mr. ANGLUS MORRISON, who has not been so long a starving as the others. Being constitutionally a *bon vivant*, and particularly fond of Government pap, Mr. MORRISON took to the fasting experiment very reluctantly, and for the first few weeks caused his managers a great deal of trouble. His paroxysms were distressing to behold when, with tantalizing cruelty, they dangled a delicious Customs Collectorship before his eyes, but just beyond his reach. He appears now to have reached a stage of morose and dogged silence, but it is currently reported that he is secretly sustaining his life with great expectations. Another point of difference between Dr. TANNER and these gentlemen might be mentioned in closing—that the doctor's starving term is limited to forty days; in the case of these distinguished statesmen the time is indefinitely specified as "when Sir JOHN gets ready."

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