



### ABSENT-MINDED.

BROWN (at the telephone)—"Hello! who's speaking?"  
VOICE—"Don't you recognize me?"

BROWN—"Well, er—I know your face, but I don't quite recall your voice at the moment."

### HARDLY CONSISTENT.

THE SQUIGGLECHUNK INDICATOR MAN ACCEPTS PARTY DOCTRINES AS HE FINDS THEM.

"JOHN," said the venerable editor of the Squigglechunk *Indicator*, "le'mme chew of tobacco. Thankee, I guess I've got to hustle like thunder for the next couple of days to try and get in enough money to pay the paper bill, so you'll have to jerk enough editorial slush to fill a column and a half or so."

"All right, boss. What'll I give 'em? Shall I razoo old Mowat on the Separate School business?"

"I think not, John," said the editor thoughtfully, "I want to strike Mulcahy for a big grocery ad. this week, and O'Reilly has just given us a gist of job printing that'll come to about \$15. No, I don't think we need say anything more about Separate Schools just yet. Anyway, I'm against raising these sectarian issues which arouse hatred and ill feeling—and you must remember that we have quite a list of Catholic subscribers. Stick to the N.P., John; that's always safe. Give 'em a good screed. You can enlarge on the prosperity of all classes in the United States under Protection—manufacturers flourishing, farmers wealthy, mechanics and laborers drawing better wages than anywhere else in the world, contrasted with the poverty and wretchedness that prevails in England, on account of Free Trade."

"I catch on, boss. Just the regular style of thing. But that will hardly be enough."

"No, it would look a leetle slim; you might write another article pitching into the Grits on this Unrestricted Reciprocity scheme. Show that Canada has no use for Free Trade with the States. It wouldn't be any advantage, because d'ye see the American farmers themselves have a hard struggle to make ends meet and are giving up their farms by thousands. The country is full of people out of employment, and the workingmen are discontented and raising trouble all around. What would be the use of getting admission to the markets of the States when their own people can hardly make a living?"

"Hold on, boss, I get the idea, but somehow it don't seem quite consistent with the pointers you give me for the other editorial."

"Well, now, neither it does, John, come to think of it. I swear it never struck me in that light before. Any-

how, it's just what the *Empire* and the *Hamilton Spec.* have been giving their readers right along, and if they can stand it, why I reckon ours can. It's good party doctrine at any rate, and I don't know as it's just the *Indicator's* business to straighten out the kinks. So let her go, John! Here's half a dollar; it'll have to do you till Saturday, and then if I have a couple of dollars or so left after squaring the paper bill you can have 'em."

### THE CONDENSED "BYSTANDER" FOR FEBRUARY.

(OR ANY OTHER MONTH.)

**PARTYISM** is what is ruining this country. The Grit and Tory machines are always trucking to Rome.

The N.P. is a fraud. What Canada wants is Commercial Union.

Gladstone is a bold bad man, who is intriguing with the Irish to overthrow the British Empire.

Beaconsfield was a contemptible trickster and adventurer. He couldn't help it because he was a Jew. Jews are no good, anyhow.

Irish and French Canadians are also a bad lot. Their principal aim in life is to drink whiskey, raise big families, re-establish the Spanish Inquisition and sell their votes to the highest bidder.

Women ought not to have votes because they can't fight.

A social revolution is impending. Theories of confiscation are in the air. Henry George would like to start the guillotine and cut off the heads of all landlords and capitalists.

Prohibition is an impossibility, and if you were to stop liquor-drinking it would demoralize the people. All Prohibitionists are either fools or rascals—some of them are both.

On the whole the country is in a very bad way because the people will not be guided by the *Bystander*.



### PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION.

NEWCOMBE—"I wonder why the ladies persist in wearing their dresses so very décolleté."

STAYER—"They want it to be known, that they're 'in the swim,' doncherknow."