

A PEEP A "HEAD,"
OR
THE "HEAD" DISCHARGED FROM THE SERVICE.

SCENE—WINDSOR CASTLE—YEAR 1850.

Attendant, to Q. Vic.—

So please your Majesty, Sir Edmund H.
An audience craves.

Queen Vic.—

Let him be hither led,
We will at once accede to his request.

Enter Sir E. H. (profoundly bowing.)

Sir E. H.—

My gracious liege, at your most high behest,
With all due speed I have your presence sought,
To inform your Majesty what causes wrought—
What facts have rendered my vice-regal reign
O'er your fair colony a task of pain.
Rebels and traitors have my path beset,
And mal-contented presumed to fume and fret.

Q. Vic.—

Indeed, Sir Edmund H., I confess I hear
With most profound regret such statements here.
We have been told—we fondly deemed we knew
Our loved Canadian subjects' zeal and true.
It grieves us much, you bid the hope depart
That we have reigned within our people's heart.

Sir E. H.—

So please your Majesty, such sweeping charge
I bring not 'gainst Canadians at large.
Good men and true—most loyal men there are,
My ministers are such, and strive to mar
The plots and schemes of the most dangerous crew
Who sit in opposition, both to me and you.
Long have we toiled—have worked by night and day,
That these bad men should never grasp the sway
Of your fair Province.

Q. Vic.—

Ah! I understand
The opposition then go heart and hand
For union with the States.

Sir E. H.—

Whate'er may be
Their inclinations, please your Majesty,
We've thus far thwarted all the reckless herd,
And your fair Province still intact preserved.

Q. Vic.—

Thanks, good Sir Edmund, thanks! but perhaps 'twere well
You should at once more more accurately tell
Who are those loyalists who thus find grace,
And occupy in your esteem, high place?

Sir E. H.—

My last prime minister, my liege, is one,
Who once has basked him in the royal sun
Of your fair presence—one your Majesty
Within this palace honoured specially.

Q. Vic.—

Ah! what! that *petit* Frenchman who once led
A rebel force against us—for whose head
Reward was offered? We were not aware
When he was here, he could prefer so rare
A claim to our regard. But pass him by,—
Go on—

Sir E. H.—

My most especial favourite is one
John A. Macdonald, member for Kingston.

Q. Vic.—

What, that bold man who dare defend the sale
Of offices within my Kingdom's pale?

Sir E. H.—

The same, my liege; but he has since repented;
And I, of course, on seeing that, relented.

Q. Vic.—

Indeed! from such relenting I should quite demur.
But sir; proceed—who's your financial minister?

Sir M. H.—

Oh! Mr. Galt, so please your Majesty,
A man well posted up in two and three;
He'll make them six, most plain and dexterously,
He's just the man our falling wind to raise,
Besides he's great at managing railways.

Q. Vic.—

Galt—Galt—the name's familiar; did not he?
Once take an active part in a design

To transfer to your neighbours cross the line;
The noble Province I as birthright claim?

Sir E. H.—(nervously.)

So p—p—please your Majesty, he is the same.

Q. Vic.—

Your ministers, Sir Edmund, strangely prove
Their ardent loyalty and earnest love;
But I suppose the opposition are
More dangerous still, and more disloyal far?

Sir E. H.—

Oh! yes, my liege,—that is—I can't insist;
Their leaders were strong annexationists,
Or rebels either.

Q. Vic.—

Did they not oppose
The annexation movement to its close?

Sir E. H.—

My liege, some did most strongly it is true,
But will your Majesty please keep in view
That I, as Governor, am bound to choose
My cabinet—my ministers from those
Who do possess the Assembly's confidence.

Q. Vic.—

Ah! yes; that doctrine is both sound and true;
I follow it myself,—but, sir, please you,
What kind of an Assembly have you now?

Sir E. H.—

My liege, last year 'twas chosen,

Q. Vic.—

Yes, but how?
Reports both strange and sad have reached my ear
Of fraud and violence. Such follies sear,
My Queenly heart—Sir Edmund, are they true,
These dark reports?

Sir E. H.—

My Royal liege, to you
I will confess that scenes both strange and sad
Were at the polls enacted.

Q. Vic.—

But they had—
My people had—redress sir, for the wrong?

Sir E. H.—

Your Majesty, my Ministers were strong;
A large majority of course must rule.

Q. Vic.—

Quebec, I hear, in bad pre-eminence
Stands out for fraud and reckless violence,
What are the facts?

Sir E. H.—

Three members good, my liege, were there returned;
Friends of my Ministers, and each could boast
Just fifteen thousand votes, although the place
But bare five thousand votes doth contain.

Q. Vic.—

Incredible! Sir Edmund, but the House
At once unseated them?

Sir E. H.—

My gracious liege,
My Ministers were strong, they kept them in.

Q. Vic.—

But you, Sir Edmund, did you not select
One of these men to sit in Council with?

Sir E. H.—

The House, your Majesty, sustained them all,
What could I do?

Q. Vic.—

Go on—was this a solitary case?

Sir E. H.—

No! Lotbiniere was similar,—but then
The man returned possessed not many friends,
The House in consequence unseated him.

Q. Vic.—

And were there others?

Sir E. H.—

Yes, my liege,
A Mr. Fellowes stood as candidate,
For Russell; near th' election's close 'twas found
He was in a minority, but then
His friends ingeniously contrived to take
Directories of Rome and Albany
In New York State; they wrote from thence at ease,
Three hundred names which in his favour cast
The strange election.

Q. Vic.—

Of course the House discarded him at once?

Sir E. H.—

Why no, your Majesty, he was a friend,
A favourite of my ministers, and they

For him fought hard, and did at length retain
By a majority of one, this Fellowes in
His seat.

Q. Vic.—

What! is it possible a member sits
In your Assembly, representing there
Two New York State Directories?

Sir E. H.—

'Tis even so, my liege, but then the House
Sustained it by a vote. What could I do?

Q. Vic.—

What could you do?—you should have instantly
Dissolved that House, and on the people thrown
Yourself. Think you, if I had known
A House of Commons such return sustain,
It should have met, Sir Edmund, once again?
Think you, I would for one short month permit
A man in that Assembly, Sir, to sit,
Who owed his re-election to a string
Of names from Paris or Boulogne? The thing
Is monstrous, Sir,—But, say, have I complete
The list of cases which you deemed it meet
To tolerate, of interference with
The rights of my Canadian people, Sir?

Sir E. H.—

Why no, my liege, I must confess there were
Still other startling cases brought up there,
But then, the Speaker over ruled them all,
On grounds quite technical.

Q. Vic.—

Well Sir, but did
No opportunity occur last year, to rid
Yourself of that Assembly?

Sir E. H.—

Yes, my liege,
My ministry resigned, and I, of course,
The opposition called, but then perforce
The House a vote of want of confidence
Passed on the just formed, absent, Ministry, and hence
I bade the former ministry again
Resume at once their perhaps unscrupulous reign.

Q. Vic.—

But did not your new Ministers advise
A dissolution?

Sir E. H.—

Yes, I deemed it wise
However to refuse it, good, my liege.

Q. Vic.—

You have admitted, Sir, that monstrous wrong
Were perpetrated by your present House;
And yet, when opportunity arose,
You straight refused, Sir, to dissolve it.
I am informed, Sir, that you sanctioned too,
A trick by which your favorite ministers
Without the task of re-election crept
To office meanly back, whilst the expense
Of an appeal to their constituents
The ministers less favoured were subjected to,
Is this correct?

Sir E. H.—(nervously.)

So please your Majesty, it is.

Q. Vic.—(severely.)

You have then trampled, Sir, upon the rights
Of my Canadian people,—yes, the rights
Most dear,—the liberties my royal House
Have ever faithfully respected, Sir.
You may retire Sir Edmund, but observe,
I now relieve you of your duties in
Fair Canada, and place in worthier hands
My people's welfare there.

Exit Sir E. H. considerably dumfounded.

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