

EVEN THE ART SHOWS ARE NOT RELIABLE.



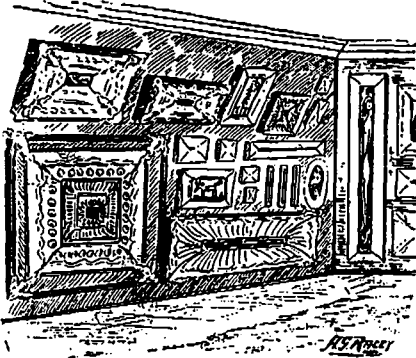
I.

When we see a placard like this, we enter the gallery expecting to —



II.

See something like this, but —



III.

This is all we can find.

OF COURSE.

EBENEZER—"What are the balls ofer the pawnshop made of, vader?"

FATHER—"I don't know, Ebby; but it's somedings cheap."

STRANGE.

HE—"Talk is cheap."

SHE—"And yet they say 'speech is silver.'"

THE GREAT CIRCULATION CONTROVERSY.

(From the Squigglechunk Indicator.)

WE understand that the repulsive and wall-eyed old miscreant who inflicts the *Paralyzer* upon a disgusted but too long-suffering community has had the unparalleled effrontery to assert that the circulation of that pestilential sheet exceeds that of the *Indicator*!!! Talk about his circulation, indeed! He has no circulation, in the proper sense of the word, though it is true that a few citizens have permitted their good nature to get the better of their judgment, and through pure benevolence succumbed to the pitiful appeals of a grovelling mendicant who but for their misplaced charity would speedily be driven to seek refuge in the poor-house. The *Indicator* has five—ten—twenty times the circulation of that despicable rag.

(From the Squigglechunk Paralyzer.)

The blear-eyed drunkard whose delirious and splenetic ravings are permitted to disgrace this town through the columns of the *Indicator*, parades his infamy to the world in a more than usually audacious and dastardly manner in his last issue. For ourselves we could afford to treat with quiet and gentlemanly scorn the outpourings of his venomous spite, but when he dares to assert that the circulation of the *Indicator* exceeds that of the *Paralyzer*, our duty to the community compels us to challenge the vindictive and brutal ruffian to prove his assertion. We will bet him one hundred dollars—though it is hardly within the bounds of possibility that he could raise such an amount to save his worthless neck—that he cannot substantiate his statements. Now put up or shut up!

(From the Indicator.)

The *Paralyzer* scoundrel is evidently determined to provoke an exposure of the infamous fraud which he has so long practised upon the people of this town. Well, we will gratify him. The money (\$5 in hard cash and the balance in perfectly good notes of hands, I.O.U.'s, etc., with our annual railroad pass to Toronto, as collateral security), has been deposited with Mr. P. McGinnis, of the Traveller's Rest. Now let us see whether the impudent braggart of the *Paralyzer* will dare to cover it!

(From the Paralyzer.)

The despicable and cowardly libeller whose crazy lucubrations in the *Indicator* excite deserved contempt, has been forced reluctantly to accept our challenge or stand before the public as a self-confessed liar and slanderer. We have covered the stake with a valuable silver watch and a second mortgage on our office plant. Now let the blackguard go ahead and prove if he can that the *Indicator* has "twenty times the circulation" of the *Paralyzer*.

(From the Indicator.)

Our foetid and pernicious adversary wants us to prove altogether too much. We believe we did say in a sort of metaphorical way that our paper had twenty times the circulation of the *Paralyzer*, but we didn't expect it to be taken in the literal sense. There's no backdown about us, however. We are prepared to prove, if access to the sheet of paper on which our contemporary scratches down the names of his handful of subscribers be afforded, that the *Indicator* has a larger circulation than the *Paralyzer*. Now see how the crawling reptile will try to sneak out of it!