

Traders I sigh over our fettered commerce. My sympathy is so easily excited and I chime in so readily with the humor of my companion for the moment that I secure hosts of friends, but it is living over a mine and playing with matches, for should I by some mistake open the Protection side of my heart to some sturdy Free Trader or its Free Trade half to some rabid Protectionist I should forfeit my position and lose my seat. If I could but find out which is the stronger party my policy would immediately become decided and I would leave the weaker in the lurch, but only fancy how disgusting, should I mistake the weaker for the stronger faction. I might be either without shocking my principles, why then couldn't I be both, and be all things to all men. But no I'll be neither. I'll be strictly neutral. I'll temporize, —I'll come the Louis Napoleon over them. I'll cultivate impenetrability of feature, and on all occasions, I'll declare that the defence of the Province should engross the entire attention of its public men, and that only by the volunteers can the hearths and homes of Skitzland be defended from the attacks of the restless Celt.—But to my task.

(Draws his chair to the table, seizes a pen, dips it in the ink, arranges a half quire of paper before him and writes)—

Fellow countrymen (wouldn't patres conscripti do better?—no—I think not) I come before you again to solicit your suffrages. Confident that my conduct in the past affords the best guarantee for my behavior in the future, I need refer, but to a few of the oases which mark the desert of my political career to demonstrate that no one in Skitzland is better qualified, either by nature or art, than I, to represent in Parliament the magnificent, illustrious, and ever progressing city of Splashville.

Fellow citizens, (*aside*, that will take with the Americans, it breathes a spirit of equality, and smacks moreover of that youthful indiscretion of mine, the annexation manifesto), you all know that to the utmost of my ability, I have on every occasion aided and assisted my constituents to advance their own interests even at the expense of the Province. I refer you to the owners of the Splashville line of Ocean Steamships for further information on that subject. My financial ability is proved by the facility with which I as Com. of Public Works disbursed the money of the Province in finishing the Parliament buildings at Ottawa. I may say with perfect justice of that splendid specimen of