

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S VICTIMS.

At the request of the parties interested Punch publishes the following correspondence. He hopes the question, "To go or not to go," is satisfactorily settled.

No. 1.

A VICTIM TO PUNCH.

MY DEAR PUNCH,—I am in an awful fix, and know not how to get out of it.

Feeling it impossible to entertain a very high degree of respect for the present representative of royalty in Canada, out of respect for myself I did not call upon him, but he has sent me a card of invitation for myself and family to one of his hops, and others, I hear, have been similarly treated.

Now, conscientiously believing that, not in sanctioning but in permitting his ministers to introduce into parliament the "rebel paying bill," that his Excellency struck a foul blow at the very foundation of order and good government, and that by stigmatizing the party with whom I have always acted as "foes to the liberties of their country," he personally insulted me through them, I feel that if I visit him I lose all respect for myself, and yet, if I refuse, I am told it will be showing disrespect to my beloved sovereign in the person of her representative. You will confer a favour at this particular moment, when vice-regal mandates are issued to everybody and all the nobodies, if you will decide this vexed question, otherwise some poor devils will be bullied for courting Lord Elgin, when the fact is, that Lord Elgin is toadying them. May we stay at home or must we go?

I remain, dear Punch,

Yours very truly,

A VICTIM OF UNWISHED FOR CIVILITY.

REPLY.

PUNCH TO THE VICTIM.

MY DEAR VICTIM,—Of course you will not go; nor can your refusal be considered a slight to the representative of royalty, inasmuch as the invitation must have been sent to you by mistake, for surely Lord Elgin would not desire to associate with "the foes to the liberties of their country." Besides, these are not times when public men can sacrifice principle to politeness. The present lull in the political atmosphere is but the calm which precedes the storm, and the storm will be a violent one. Those who see the welfare of Canada consists in the maintenance of British connexion have to contend against the fierce and foolish annexationists on the one hand, and gubernatorial and Downing Street imbecility and ignorance on the other. The entire British colonial system of government must be swept away, as unsuited to the spirit of the age, and amidst its wreck will disappear Governors General at £7000 a year, high salaried officials, whose duties approximate closely to those of an English parish vestry, and the mockery of prescribing the vast legal and political institutions necessary for the regulation of an empire of twenty millions, to the little Pedlington affairs of a scattered population of one million and a half.

When duty is paramount pleasure must be sacrificed; therefore, my dear Victim, as I said before, of course you will not accept the invitation.

I am, yours truly,

PUNCH IN CANADA.

PUNCH IN CANADA'S LETTERS.

To B. C. A. GUGY, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR GUGY,—You are out at last. The "cat has jumped," and Punch is in ecstasies that it has jumped to the right side. Your letter addressed to your "fellow citizens of the westward of Montreal," which I have read in the *Transcript*, is an honor to you. It is an able and masterly composition. With one vigorous wrestle worthy of a Cornishman, you have administered a fair fall to annexation. You have broken its back, and it lies sprawling and howling in the mud. You have exposed the

iniquity of the foul thing in a few words. Punch will circulate those words from Sandwich to Gaspé. He will immortalize you, O GUGY! He hereby baptizes those words by the name of "GUGY'S TEXT," and GUGY'S text shall be preached from all quarters of the land, by all true friends of the people.

GUGY'S TEXT.

"It is CHEAP LAND that the immigrant, that the HARD WORKING MAN requires, and if annexation is to raise the value of property, or, in other words, TO MAKE LAND DEAR, ANNEXATION MUST BE BAD FOR THE POOR."

Reiterate this "great fact," my dear GUGY, don't let the subject drop; write, write, write, and advocate the cause of the poor man. Point out the mean, selfish and contemptible motives which actuate the designing leader of the annexation movement. Prove to the farmer, the mechanic, the artisan and the labourer, that the object of the annexationists is to establish a system which will make the rich richer, and the poor poorer. Point to the old country, convulsed by the struggles of the masses to bring down the price of land, that her starving millions may be enabled to exist, and tell the people of Canada, that the artificial state of things which their fellow-subjects in England are with mighty efforts gradually but surely destroying, is that which these political panders would establish here. They confess to being breeches-pocket politicians; yes, but it is their own breeches-pockets, for which they possess an all-absorbing love. The breeches-pocket of the few, not of the many. The price of land primarily regulates the price of food. The majority of all nations is composed of the working classes. The majority of the working classes earn little more than sufficient to procure food. Therefore, dear land, which of necessity causes dear food, is a curse to all people; and this curse the annexationists avowedly would bring on the people of Canada.

But they shall not do it, my dear GUGY, Britons or their descendants are not to be bound hand and foot, and delivered over as sacrifices to the Golden Calf, at whose blood-stained altar, decked with Bowie-knives and the knotted whips of the dealers in human flesh, these peaceful separationists would bid the world to worship. And what is the liberty these money-mongers would give us? The liberty of not daring to express an opinion differing from their own. Well may we exclaim that England is the "land of liberty," when men may, in her own dominions, unmolested preach the subversion of her Empire: and apostles of sedition stalk throughout the land, noticed only to be despised. Let these ardent lovers of the "free and enlightened Republic" cross the lines and publicly advocate the non-chewing of tobacco, or the establishment of a monarchy, and if they are not on the instant introduced to the notice of Mr. Judge Lynch and suspended from the nearest lamp-post or tree, my notions of American liberty are very erroneous. Let them visit the slave-states and publicly hint that the "peculiar institution" was not to be highly commended; and the unpleasant sensation of a bullet effecting an entrance to the internals, followed by the report of the ready revolver would naturally put a period to the conversation.

Do not, I beseech you, my dear GUGY, be content with having come out—but keep out—do not go in again—and while you are smashing annexation, do not forget that notwithstanding all the noise, at one time made, by the British League, there is as yet no plan of action before the country on which it can pronounce as the means of tranquilizing and uniting the British North American possessions, and getting rid of the present colonial system, which entails the absurdity of one man sitting in Downing Street dictating to millions of people in all the quarters of the globe, what they shall do and what they shall leave undone.

Hoping soon to hear of you again,

I remain,

Your devoted remembrancer,

PUNCH IN CANADA.

REFORM PRINCIPLES—To take care of the people's money.

REFORM PRACTICE—To pocket it.

ON DIT.—That Mr. Hamilton Merritt has directed the clerks in his department not to dot their I's nor cross their T's, by which a considerable saving of ink has been effected.