

SUMMER EVENINGS ON THE GALLERY.

BY ALFRED BAILEY.

NO. II.—IN WHICH THE TALK IS STILL OF TALKING, AND THE MAJOR TELLS A TALE.

"THE fact is, Parson," said Rufus J., "whil I admit all you have said about the excellence to which conversation is being carried, particularly in England, I think you will allow that my country beats your's hollow in public speaking."

"I am doubtful of that," said the Parson.

"Right again," said the doctor; "I know no greater humbug than that idolatry of a fluent tongue which is so prevalent in this country and your's, Jackson. In all your colleges you are cultivating the tongue at the expense of the head and heart. I hardly know any evil in this country that cannot be put down to the cause of too much talk."

BÉNARD.—*Ecce signum.*

DOCTOR.—It may be so. I know I talk too much; I know you talk too much; we all talk too much—but that is the effect of—of—of the company I have been keeping lately.

ANNIE.—Including me, Doctor?

DOCTOR.—No, no! I except all women folk. No man *can* argue with a woman, or, at least, if he once begins it, he soon gives it up in despair. I believe that women are a wholesome invention sent to us by Providence for the curbing of men's tongues.

And as an illustration of the old man's very ungallant remark, Annie arose, passed over to her crabbed old friend, and—kissed him!

The effect was marvellous. The doctor relapsed into a silence of half an hour, interspersed only with growls.

CHARLES.—Miss Annie, you have disarmed him quite. All my filial obedience of years' standing never had such an effect on my father as that.

DOCTOR.—(*Growl.*)

PARSON.—I would, Annie, that all violent talk could be silenced in the same way. I must confess that I am much of the Doctor's opinion. I am no politician, but I cannot but think that the present session of the Canadian Parliament can hardly be considered a very profitable one. I read in the newspapers of much talk, recrimination, and abuse, on subjects which seem to me of very little importance to anybody but the persons individually concerned.