

SIR HOGGERY'S BAD BREAK.

SIR HOGGERY GRABSNEAK, the distinguished Canadian statesman, being in London, England, on business lately, was invited to a public dinner at the Guildhall. Sir Hoggery is nothing if not eloquent, and has a large and select assortment of phrases such as "the development of immense resources," "our vast and fertile territory stretching from ocean to ocean," "the inborn sentiment of loyalty which every Canadian feels to mother country," etc., which at a moment's notice he can string together into a very passable and orthodox after-dinner speech without disturbing the placid post-prandial content of his hearers by a single idea. Had he stuck to this safe and commonplace style of oratory all would have been well. But unfortunately for his reputation as a representative colonial he resolved on this occasion to venture on a new line.

Sir Hoggery had noticed that the public utterances of distinguished English visitors to Canada, were usually applauded in proportion as they tickled the national vanity of their auditors. Patronizing references to the growth and prosperity of the country and the intelligence, enterprise and loyalty of the people invariably excite enthusiasm and secure for the speaker a cordial reception and complimentary notices of his discernment and keenness of observation in the newspapers. Sir Hoggery therefore determined to try the effect of a little judicious flattery upon his English auditors.

Several dukes, right-honorables and financial magnates having spoken in reply to the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the Lord Mayor called on Sir Hoggery Grabsneak, as the leading colonial present, to respond to the toast of "Our Colonies."

"Mr. Chairman, my lords and gentlemen," began Sir H., "it affords me particular pride and satisfaction to address you this evening in response to the toast you have just honored. As a Canadian I have always had a due appreciation of the privilege which we enjoy as a portion of an Empire on which the sun never sets. (Hear, hear.) Coming, sir, as I do, from a Dominion which stretches from ocean to ocean, whose immense natural resources are destined to support a population of hundreds of millions, I was surprised and delighted to note the degree of prosperity and advancement attained by the people of England. Gentlemen, the position of England is something of which, let detractors and pessimists say what they will, you have a right to be proud. Mingling with your different classes of society, I have been struck by the fact that many of your people display considerable intelligence—fully as much so, perhaps, as even the people of Canada. When I look around me in your cities I see positive indications of enterprise and commercial activity. And more than all I am told, and all that I have seen in the course of my sojourn amongst you tends to corroborate the view, that Englishmen are thoroughly loyal and patriotic."

Here the speaker paused for an instant to allow the applause which such an observation always elicits from a Canadian audience to come in. But to his astonishment there was no response. Such of the party as were paying any attention were glancing at him with expressions of amusement or curiosity.

"Yes, gentlemen," went on Sir Hoggery, "I must say that this state of affairs is really exceedingly creditable to you. I assure you that on my return to Canada to assist in the development of our vast natural resources, I shall not fail to convey to my fellow-countrymen the exceedingly favorable impression which England has made upon



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my mind. Speaking for myself, I believe that there is a bright and prosperous future yet in store for England, and I can only add that anything which my humble ability can do to secure for the English people that appreciation which their excellent qualities merit, and uphold the institutions of this country will cheerfully be done."

A laugh ran round the dining hall as Sir Hoggery resumed his seat, instead of the applause he had counted on. The next speaker, Lord Adolphus Fitzarlington, in a few sarcastic, though somewhat hesitating remarks, said that they felt exceedingly flattered—aw—by the complimentary—and he might say entertaining—aw—observations of the gentleman from the—aw—colonies, but at the same time—aw—he always supposed—aw—that the enterprise, progress and—aw—loyalty of Englishmen were regarded as a matter of course.

Poor Sir Hoggery was utterly crushed by his failure to propitiate English sentiment, and the comments of the *Times* and *Punch* upon his unfortunate deliverance were so severe that he at once quitted London without stopping to float his Sudbury nickel mining company, on which he hoped to unload mining lands for which he paid a couple of thousand dollars for something like \$100,000. He left by the next Allan Liner for Canada, and can't yet understand how it is that the kind of speeches which travelling Englishmen deliver in this country amid enthusiastic plaudits don't seem to catch on with English audiences.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MYTHOLOGY.

TEACHER—"We will resume the consideration of the ancient Roman mythology. Who was the king of the gods?"

1ST PUPIL—"Jove, sir."

TEACHER—"Right. You will notice as a singular evidence of the persistence of formulas long after the traditions on which they were founded, have been exploded, that even now 'by Jove' is a favorite expletive among some classes. Now, can anybody tell me what deity presided over agriculture?"

2ND PUPIL (after a minute's reflection)—"Gosh."

TEACHER—"Gosh? What do you mean, sir? Do you find any such name in your text-book?"

2ND PUPIL—"No, sir. But the farmers all swear by him yet, just like the dudes do by Jove."