

A very small sum per annum would be ample compensation for all the work he does in that capacity.

"Then as License Inspector, what does he do, or what has he done? Mighty little, as it seems to me. Of course he has visited the various hotels to see whether the requirements of the by-law, in respect to accommodations, are complied with, but has he done anything to enforce the other clauses of the by-law? I am aware of but one instance, viz: when McKinnon & Macfarlane, of the Alhambra Hotel, were prosecuted and fined for a contravention of the law which was in reality an offense more in appearance than in fact. Since that time, up to and including the present day, the by-law is set openly at defiance by almost every liquor-selling place in the city, and that, too, on every day of the week, and the License Inspector is about the only man in town that seems to be ignorant of the fact.

"And yet the dough-heads of License Commissioners want to raise Macleod's salary—at the expense of the taxpayers and as a reward for incompetence.

"The action of the Police Committee in keeping the portion of Macleod's salary which they pay, at the same figure as heretofore, is intelligible. Why is it intelligible? Simply because I am given to understand that Alderman Towler is not only the chairman, but the "brains" of that committee. If such is the case, the intellect of that body is an engine of about two-kilobotch power, and probably over-estimated at that figure.

"If I am not very much mistaken, there will be some fur flying at the next municipal election over this and similar instances of wanton waste of the people's money by the men elected to look out for the prevention of just such 'leaks.'

"The proposition to give Mr. William Brown a monthly stipend for his services as chairman of the School Board was sound sense compared to the action of the License Commissioners and the Police Committee in the case of Policeman Macleod. Mr. Brown at least rendered some service to the city."

The "prominent citizen" was very much excited as he delivered the above philippic, but he evidently meant all that he said, and the gentlemen whose action he criticized would do well to consider whether they can afford to ignore an expression of popular feeling on this subject, a feeling which, we know, is not confined to a minority of our "prominent citizens;" or whether they think themselves so secure in their seats as to be able to afford to adopt, towards the public, the Vanderbiltian attitude of "you-be-damnativeness."

In the issue of *Truth*, dated Thursday, July 3rd, 1890, Labouchere thus speaks of the tactics of obstruction pursued by the Liberal party to retard the passage of measures promoted by the Salisbury Government:

"I have always been an open and avowed advocate of what the Tories call obstruction, but what I call hindering the Government from passing bad bills, in every way that the rules of Parliament permit. This has been the plan of campaign of the present session. And I think it has proved successful. Are Ministers as strong as they were at the commencement of the session? Their most ardent admirers would not assert this."

*Mutatis mutandis*, this will be admitted to be a perfect description of the political *status quo* in England to-day. The Gladstone ministry is not as strong now as it was at the beginning of the session in the House, and certainly far from as strong in the country. It needed not a prophet or the son of a prophet to have predicted that disunion, and ultimately disruption, would result from the presence in Mr. Gladstone's following of so many discordant elements. Disunion and discord have developed, and disruption will undoubtedly follow. There are significant signs in the air. Gladstone does not dare again to contest Midlothian in the

face of the fact which he, no doubt, remembers with deep chagrin, that his majority, in that constituency, at the last election, was reduced to the verge of tenuity. Edward Blake who expected something like a walk-over for the Home Rulers, as the result of his advent, and who, consequently, expected a speedy return to Canada in triumph, is compelled to admit that he cannot say when he will return. The very tactics of obstruction of which Labby had "always been an open and avowed advocate" are now employed by the Tories to retard the passage of the Home Rule Bill, and the member for Northampton and his Irish coadjutors are treated to a dose of their own medicine. Hence they howl and yell and demand the *cloture*. Verily, it maketh a mighty difference whose ox is gored. Labouchere, it is needless to say, is no longer the "open and avowed advocate of what the Tories call obstruction." Not much!

It must be admitted, however, that Labouchere, though crazy on the subject of Home Rule and a rabid Radical, is eminently sane on almost all other subjects. For example this is how he writes of the situation in this Province:

"A serious crisis seems to be impending in the relations between the island of Vancouver and the Mainland of British Columbia, owing to the reckless expenditure and financial dishonesty of the Government and Legislative Assembly which are mainly representative of the Island. . . . The situation is aggravated by the unequal distribution of the electors among the constituencies. . . . At the present time the Mainland party are specially incensed against proposals of the Government to spend \$600,000 upon a new Parliament House and to guarantee interest to the amount of \$6,000,000 on bonds of the proposed British Pacific Railway, at a time when the budget of the colony shows a deficit of \$216,000, and there is a strong feeling that this is part of a deliberate policy to incur debts for the benefit of the Island, the burden of which will fall chiefly on the Mainland."

He concludes by tendering the following very sensible piece of advice to the new Governor-General, who, being a Mainland taxpayer himself, is directly interested in the matter:

"It is obvious that the present disparity between the representatives of the two sections of the colony cannot continue, and, when Lord Aberdeen takes over the reins of government, he cannot do better than set himself to right the anomaly before worse mischief ensues."

It appears to us that the case, as between the Island and the Mainland, could not have been more fairly, and hardly more forcibly, put. Nor could Lord Aberdeen's proper course of action in the line of his official duty have been more correctly indicated. Manifestly, also, Mr. Labouchere is of the opinion that it is quite *intra vires* for the Governor-General to interfere, the *World's* opinion, to the contrary, notwithstanding. All things considered, we venture the opinion that the chances are overwhelmingly in favor of the editor of *Truth* being right and the tripod-squatter of the *World* being wrong on this point.

The *World* is improving a little in its editorial manners, if not in its editorial English. Where, a couple of months ago, it would have called J. C. Brown, M.P., "a blankety-blank liar," it now applies to him the slightly more euphemistic term, "fibber." This is decidedly one step—if only a little one—in the right direction. *Macte virtute esto!* Keep on, and there will be some hope for you yet, Mac!

In the same connection, the Jupiter Tonans of the *World* says: "Mr. Brown, while accusing Mr. Turner of not telling the truth, is himself in the same box." In the name of Lindley Murray what box does the *World* mean? The only "box" that Mr. Turner can be understood to be in is that of "not stating the truth," or rather of "stating that which is