

THE JESTER,

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MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL, 1878.

THE HON. JOHN YOUNG.

Born A. D. 1811. Died April 13, 1878.

An honest man, whose work is done;
But little there remains to tell
His life a guide for every one,
Would that we all might do as well!

GRAND PERFORMANCE AT THE GREAT NATIONAL CIRCUS.
BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.

A special and unusually attractive performance was given on Friday evening last at the Great National Circus and Variety Show, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. The combined troupe now exhibiting had been collected at an enormous expense from every part of the Dominion and comprises, perhaps, a more varied array of talent than has ever before been brought together in any one building.

The public will remember that this show was for many years conducted by that old and popular Manager JONX A., who spared no expense to amuse and entertain his audiences; but although he carried on the business with great *éclat*, he never made much money by it, and ultimately got into difficulties and was bought out by ALEC MACKENZIE, who has since been running the show at a considerably reduced expense but has been gradually losing ground by his lack of enterprise.

After playing first fiddle for so many years, JONX A. was naturally rather dissatisfied with the small opposition show he was compelled to put up with, and made no secret of his intention to have the old concern back again into his hands as soon as he could get clear of his former liabilities; and a nice little windfall of capital having unexpectedly dropped in from Quebec, he determined to challenge ALEC to a grand contest with a view of letting the public decide on the merits of their respective troupes.

ALEC, who though somewhat parsimonious does not lack pluck, readily accepted, and fixed Friday evening last for the competition. Having plenty of capital at his disposal he has been quietly endeavouring, for some time past, to strengthen his Company by engaging several new artistes of celebrity from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, but it was rumoured that they had scarcely come up to his expectations. The public had become rather tired of the old performers who are getting somewhat stale,—DICKY CARTWRIGHT, the great balance artist especially having "missed his tip" most lamentably on several occasions lately,—and novelties were urgently demanded. ALEC went to a good deal of expense and trouble in engaging JOXES of Halifax, whose performances with the hat and flagstaff created a good deal of excitement in his native town a few years ago, but the public taste has changed of late and JOXES has hardly brought much strength to the Company.

On the other hand although JONX A. has not been in a position to engage much fresh talent, his old performers have been indefatigable in learning new tricks and perfecting themselves in their old ones, and though comparatively small in numbers, pull well together and work in perfect accord. He is rather weak in "side" men and has no one who can hold a candle to Old Joe, whose jokes and stump speeches though somewhat old, never fail to bring down the house. He is strongest in plaintive melodies and has brought out several new protection ballads which take well with the general audience—the new song "Oh! protect our manufactures" has been received with great applause.

JONX A. commenced the performance with a new constitutional *tour de force*, he kept his audience greatly interested for a considerable time by his wonderful endurance and agility, leaping from precedent to precedent over great distances, and though occasionally rather wide it cannot be said he ever entirely missed his mark—he was much applauded.

He was followed by ALEC who very unwisely endeavoured to compete with him in the same line. His style is too ponderous and he lacks the agility of his opponent.

In endeavouring to get over two or three stiff precedents he went a

regular header and came to grief utterly. He soon picked himself up with his usual pluck and tried to make up for his failure by giving one or two of his old *tu quoque* exercises, but the public have had a good deal of that sort of thing lately and they fell rather flat, he then tried to get out of his scrape by depreciating JONX A's performance but was not up to his usual form.

Several young members of JONX A's troupe then gave specimens of their powers. BROOKS, of Sherbrooke, especially distinguished himself, and his constitutional balancing was much admired.

LANGEVIN sang one of his old melodies but his voice is not what it used to be and considering that JONX A. is reported to have given as much as twenty five thousand dollars to secure him, it can hardly be said to be a good investment.

JETTÉ and BARNEY followed on ALEC's side with only moderate success. BARNEY's melody was good but his rendering of the author's meaning was very questionable. A number of minor stars followed but it now became clear that the bulk of the talent was with JONX A.—although the number were in favor of ALEC.—JONX A. wanted to play out the House but ALEC wouldn't consent and things began to get very much mixed. ALEC's followers went in for a miscellaneous performance, every man on his own hook. CHEVAL's solos on the Jews' harp, DYMONI's basket pitching and the barn yard chorusus of the general company being notably prominent.

Ultimately it was arranged that another and final performance should be given, but the universal opinion is that both companies will have to be thoroughly reorganized before any general public support will be accorded them.

THE GENERAL (HOSPITAL) ELECTIONS.

The following is a fair sample of the many letters we have received asking for our support, influence, and the benefit of our large circulation with the view of enabling the applicant to get a position (of some sort) on the staff of the Dorchester Street Infirmary popularly known as the Montreal General Hospital:

MONTREAL, March 21st 1878.

Dear Sir and Honored Governor,—Dr. Duck having intimated his intention of resigning his position to the General Hospital—a name by the way which I think is a misnomer, so far as my chances of election in the past were concerned, I beg to solicit your vote and influence at the election which is to take place in May. I have already served the Hospital as Physician to the Variola Department, and, for the past two years under the direction of my masters, the Medical Board, as Phrenologist. At present I hold the position of Professor of Phrenology and other "ologies" in Mak III University—at a nominal salary.

As affording evidence of a desire to advance myself (I beg pardon, I mean the cause of Medical Science) I may, perhaps, be permitted to append a list of my contributions to Scientific and Practical Medicine, many of which have been issued under the auspices of that Institution on the roll of which I hope, by your influence, to see my name in a more conspicuous position. I may further add my practice is not large and therefore I should be able to devote my whole time to the service of the Corporation.

I have the honor to remain

Your obedient servant,

GULIELMUS BONELEE, M. D., &c.

HENRY PRUP, Esq.,
Dry Goods Merchant,
Montreal,

References:—

1. On Uncertain Orangeism in the Blood.
2. On the Phrenology of Major's liver.
3. On A. P. Q. Liar form of Sear *Latina*.
4. Bed-side notes on Variola.
 - (a) The rash beginning.
 - (b) The rash ending.
 - (c) Various conclusions.
- s. n.—The above notes are my own, although there are ample references to authorities who support my views.
5. Case of Pertinacious Annia Maria with a Gardener.
6. Case of A New Rism of Hip atic artery with Dr. Cross.
7. Venimous Brown skeeters in Puppies.
8. Another case of Pertinacious Annia Maria with a Ring.
9. Case of Hyper trophy of the Heart, caused by the muscular exertion of canvassing for my appointment. (This is one of unusual interest—to myself.)
10. Memoir of Sir Hog Cholera; his nature and Phrenology.
11. The last scientific Report on the anatomy of a numb-skull. By myself.

NOTE.—If these are not enough I can send you more in an express wagon. "Sharp's" the word.