

## LETTER I.

Appointment as Special Commissioner—Interview with McKellar—  
The Elgin Association Business Explained—Solicits a Ticket for  
the Grit Guzzle—Mysterious Connection between Wheelbarrows  
and Champagne—Hasty Termination of an Interview.

YOUR favour appointing me your special Commissioner at Toronto was duly received.

As I have since leaving the University (by the back door in order to avoid attention by over obsequious creditors), been in my usual condition of chronic impecuniosity, the appointment was truly welcome.

It is true the pecuniary inducements were not such as to call up visions of the wealth of Golconda—whoever he was—in fact, my position much resembles that lately held by the Hon. E. Blake, a “Minister without a portfolio,” so to speak.

By the way, what does a Minister want a portfolio for anyway?

But the incidental advantages are an object. I am now a full-fledged member of the press.

In that capacity I have during the last week attended four Sunday school tea meetings and three concerts, besides being the recipient of innumerable free drinks.