

## WANTED A NEW DICTIONARY.

In a Prohibitory Liquor Law pamphlet published by Maclear & Co., which by the way is adorned by a not very striking likeness of "the Coon," we find the following:—

"Take that history \* \* \* now while we write and for *cinquennial periods of five years backwards*, to the first settlement of each county, and what will that history reveal?"

We know pretty well what it will not reveal; and that is such a hybrid expression as "*cinquennial*." What on earth can be the meaning of it? The sage writer of the pamphlet surely never intended to graft a French numeral on a Latin root; and yet it really seems so. He must after all have meant *quinquennial* and, if ignorant of its orthography, he might have ascertained it at the nearest common school. And yet if this theory be correct, why add "of five years;" we have not yet heard of *quinquennial* periods of six, eight or any other number but five. We do not know how it is in that part of the country, but in this vicinity such periods are pretty uniform. Still another difficulty stares us in the face. What is the significance of the whole expression "*cinquennial periods of five years backwards*?" It perfectly staggers us; we do not know what effect it will have on the general public; but as far as we are personally concerned, we intend the author to give us a new edition with explanatory notes, and a copious glossary. We fear that if his logic and facts are only as sound as his style, we shall not very soon be bored with a Canadian edition of the defunct Maine Law.

## POOR DUFRESNE.

We feel the most lively interest in the health of the decayed old subject, whose name stains the head of this article. It is really a fact that on the capaces of a stupid old Frenchman, hangs the question, whether 15,000 bad votes entitle three men to sit for the present metropolis of Canada, or whether they do not. His diet, his mode of living, and the school he gets his physic in, assume a sudden importance.

Fully impressed with the responsibility under which we labour as a public journalist, we have made every inquiry about the wide-mouthed old creature. A reliable correspondent informs us that he is at present attended by Dr. Lamb, an Alcoholic-opathic physician living very near the House of Assembly. The doctor has very little hope of his patient. The admixture of various medicines has unfortunately not produced a salutary effect, and Dr. Lamb is afraid that recourse must eventually be had to a diuretic admixture popularly denominated gin-cocktail. We are very happy to contradict the absurd story of the blanket, Mr. Dufresne did not come down to the House swaddled in a blanket; the only peculiarity in his attire was the unwonted presence of a brick in his hat. We trust for the sake of the purity of election and as a salve to the conscience of the Hon. Mr. Allyn, that the poor old creature will speedily be restored to health and the Committee. It is really sad for the country to be pestered with three intruders in the House because an old fool is shamming sickness or stumbling over stupid scruples. Care or kill him, at once, Dr. Lamb, he is not worth much trouble.

## CANT AND SLANG.

Toronto, April, 1860.

My dear Mr. GRUMBLER.

As I am afraid that I shall be forced to leave Canada ere long, owing to the advances of certain ill bred persons, known as Cant and Slang, I wish to make an appeal to Canadians before taking my final departure.

These persons, Cant and Slang, corrupt the language of every one with whom they associate, and are always the forerunners of bad manners. They pollute the newspapers; and the effect of their teachings is constantly seen in the speeches of Politicians, in the addresses of Barrister, and even in the exhortations and sermons of the Clergy. Cant phrases and Slang expressions every where assail the ear. I wish to warn Canadians against their degrading company, and to shew that the consequences of their admission into Society, are, and will be dangerous. Instead of the good old plain English, we have barbarisms and improprieties. Instead of pure classic language, the impure offspring of low Society. The writings of Milton, Addison and Steele will be no longer looked to as models. Nothing will be considered so worthy of one's ambition, as excellence in the use of slang; and that excellence, "a consummation devoutly to be wished for." When even the gospel is clothed in the rags of slang, I may surely say, it is time for me to take my departure. In the company of Cant and Slang there is generally a person called Comical gestures. This individual is not quite so impudent and bare-faced as his fellows, still, even his efforts produce their effects. When we see persons humorously jorking their thumbs in the direction of their left shoulders, or tapping the side of their noses feignously, or making their fingers dexterously gyrate in the region of their noses, (their thumbs being placed on the bridge thereof,) we may conclude that the performers have been in the company of Comical-gestures. Hoping that Canadians will see the propriety of driving out these intruders.

I remain,

Yours truly,  
PURE ENGLISH.

## Something New.

—The *Hamilton Spectator* says that at the Masquerade Ball given in the ambitious city, there "was in the centre of the Hall a small fountain which played Cologne water all the evening."

We have heard of a tune called the "Boyne water," but never, of one called "Cologne water." Who is the inventor of the musical fountain?

## The University Plunderers.

—If we were in the House, we should move for a committee to inquire, how Drs. Stinson, Ryerson, Green, and Nelles, came by their degrees of D. D.; what they gave for them, and what Universities conferred them. Verily D. D.'s are plentiful in Canada.

## Political Intelligence.

The *Haltou Journal* says that Ministerialists in its Country "are as unsteady as pigs before a thunder storm." We hardly know which to admire the more, the exquisite simile or the forcible portraiture of mental agony.

## A Rare Chance.

—A New York Paper has the following as an advertisement:

**MATRIMONIAL.**—AN AMERICAN GENTLEMAN of spotless character, and the highest respectability, in the vigor of manhood, (forty-seven,) but never married, with a good presence and affectionate disposition, of Christian principles, liberal education and refined tastes and manners, having an individual maintenance, and residing in this city, desires to form a mutual attachment, in view of wedlock, with some congenial young lady, (an orphan preferred,) or young widow unincumbered. She must be of a respectable family, and also be possessing, warm hearted, affluent and refined. Address, with full and truthful particulars, in good faith, F. N. D., New York Post office.

If the ladies let this offer go by, they will richly deserve to live and die old maids. We insert this gratuitously for the benefit of the unmarried females of Canada.

## Where were the Police?

We have heard with the greatest indignation that Lola Montez positively frightened Ald. Carr into a post-ponement of a public meeting. It is confidently asserted that the renowned Lola marched with drawn cane into the President's sanctum, reproached him with want of gallantry, and swore that unless he forthwith retracted the step he had taken, she would thrash him as she had done editors and actors of heavier calibre than he. Where were the police? Is it really come to this that even the flower of the Corporation can be cowed by a foreign adventuress?

## Lost, Stolen, or Strayed.

—The Rev. Casual Advantages having absented himself from his office in Toronto, for some weeks, to the great damage of the common-school-interests, his friends offer the sum of \$0.25 to any one who will give information as to his whereabouts.

N. B. If he do not return within one week from the date hereof, his "suit of homespun," at present on exhibition in the N. School museum, will be sold to pay the expense of this advertisement.

(The above was crowded out of last week's issue, Ed. G.)

## Deserting their Posts.

—Rumor says that the present Government, as they anticipate impeachment or something of that kind, are withdrawing themselves from Canada. Sidney Smith and John Ross have gone, and we cannot say who may be the next. We would suggest to Mr. Brown that he apply for an *attachment* forthwith, so as to prevent the other members of the Government from leaving Canada in the same suspicious manner. Another rumor says, that it is because no more money can be rung from the public purse. We merely give the rumors for what they are worth.

## Irish Wit.

—The Maine Law is most certainly a mane (mean) law.

We don't wish any more such as this sent to us.

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