

THE MODERN BELSHAZZAR.

"The position of Sir John A. Macdonald has points of similarity to that of Belshazzar at his last banquet. The companions by that monarch's side may be paralleled by Howe and Hincks, and the handwriting on the wall by the accessions to the Opposition. Galt may stand for *Mene*, McDougall for *Tobel*, Bowell for *Upharsin*, and McKenzie for another Daniel to interpret them."—*Wide Witness*, 19th inst.

The parliament had met,
The members thronged the hall,
Discussing, here, the debt,
And, there, the coming ball.
A hundred seats of cold
And highly-polished wood,
The godless heathen hold,
And make their presence good.

In that same hour is seen,
Amid the adverse band,
With fierce and vengeful mien,
Three whilom Tories stand—
Three Tories who had long
Been firm in their support
Of Governmental wrong,
With Clear Grits now consort.

The Premier saw, and shook,
And could no more rejoice;
All bloodless was his look,
And tremulous his voice.
"Let Hincks and Howe appear,—
The wisest we have got,—
To expound this treachery here,
Which mars our pleasant plot."

The Tories' seers are wise,
But here they are at fault;
They view, with mad surprise,
McDougall, Bowell, Galt,
Among their foes arrayed,
With thunder on their brow:
Their wisdom here is "played,"
Their skill is useless now.

A Clear Grit in the land,
A member, wise and bold,
He heard the high command,
He could the "tale unfold."
The lamps around were bright,
The recusants in view;
He told it on that night,
To-morrow proves it true.

"Jonalleck's course is run,
His friends have had their day;
His policy is done,
His sceptre passed away;
His sins are now complete,—
For which he must atone,—
The Rouge is in his seat,
The Clear Grit on his throne!"

THE "SILVER NUISANCE"—Grey Hairs.

PARLIAMENT BOILED DOWN.

FEBRUARY 15, 1870.

This day His Excellency was graciously pleased to open the third session of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech from the Throne:—

Honourable Gents of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

It is with the highest satisfaction that I am enabled to summon you to Ottawa at this season of the year, when business is dull, and boarding at home so expensive. The circumstances under which we meet are unusually auspicious. The harvest of last year was so abundant that the land may be said to be like Canaan of old,—“a land flowing with milk and honey.” In many districts existing industries have been enlarged—another barber's shop has been started in Ottawa since the last time we had the happiness of meeting together. The wealth of the Dominion is so rapidly increasing that it is confidently expected that “greenbacks” may be shortly picked up on the streets, and “won't be known no more.”

Some anxiety has been caused by the obstreperousness of the half-breeds in the North-West Territory. I sent our truly and well-beloved William McDougall to take charge of them, but they would not hearken unto his voice, or admit him within their gates. I fear, now, that a great mistake was made, in that we did not send him unto them with a “Mackinaw” blanket about his loins, and his countenance coloured with “the bright olive tints of the forest.”

The charters of most of the banks were, last session, extended to the year 02001, so as to allow time to arrange the question of the currency of the country on a basis which should enrich all parties. A measure to this end will be brought forward for your consideration.

The laws respecting the regulation of parliamentary elections are so various in the different parts of the country, and so unsatisfactory in their operation, that it will be proposed, for your consideration, to cause all general elections to take place on the same day, or days, throughout the country; and that the city of Ottawa, here, be the polling place for the whole Dominion, and that all voting be done by telegraph, the control of which shall be in the hands of the Government during such day or days of election.

I have to congratulate you on the success of our negotiations with Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, they having gladly acceded to our proposals to take control of their public lands, and to unite with us in forming one grand Empire.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The estimates for the present year will be submitted to you. They have been framed with every regard to economy compatible with the maintenance of several hundred useless *employés*, for whose support the Government feel bound to provide, and the unlimited jobbery which may naturally be expected in connection with the Intercolonial and other public works; and, considering the prosperous state of the country, the