

TO MR. O'BRIEN.

WHILE, Mr. O'Brien,
No one is denyin'
That Ireland may have grievous ills of her own,
Remember, till recent,
'Twas always held decent
For people to wash dirty linen at home.

Now, Mr. O'Brien,
If you were applyin'
To us for our help in your country's distress ;—
Lord love you, for answer
We all to a man, sir,
To such an appeal would gladly cry "yes !"

But, Mr. O'Brien,
If you will come shyin'
Your dynamite speeches and pamphlets about ;
By the Piper of Moses,
Bleus, Grits and Bluenoses,
We'll make it so hot that you'll wish you'd stayed out.

If, Mr. O'Brien,
'Twas Donovan's lyin'
Persuaded you into so wild a goose chase ;
You've taken our size, man,
And now like a wise man
Be off to your fellows in silence and peace.

For remember, O'Brien,
The flag that is flyin'
Beneath our blue skies no dishonor hath seen—
And that all agitators
Who pander to traitors
Must clash with the boys who will die for their Queen !

MELTON MOWBRAY.

AN ARTISTIC "SITTING."

OUR sister Province of Quebec has a Parliament House which is an ornament to the ancient capital, and reflects honor on the people. If the building about to be erected for this Province isn't a very dandy concern it will be likely to suffer by comparison. Now, mark the influence of handsome surroundings upon impressible temperaments. The legislators of Quebec have come to believe that they are individually and collectively specimens of manly beauty. This impression is certainly well founded in the case of Mercier, Faucher de Saint Maurice, and some other leading members, (Faucher insists on including Gagnon also in this special mention,) but of course in a few cases the fondly cherished belief is a delusion. The "sitting" of the Assembly on Wednesday afternoon of last week was unique in parliamentary annals, as a consequence of this impression. The members assembled and sat for their photographs ! The operator took his place in the gallery—which it may be stated surrounds three sides of the chamber in church fashion—and pointing his instrument first in one direction then in another, scooped in the legislative loveliness in large chunks. First, as in duty bound, he fixed his focus on the treasury benches, and succeeded we believe in getting a good negative of the prettiest as well as ablest and most economical government that has ever ruled the Province. The members took characteristic poses. Mercier settled down firmly in his seat, an attitude typical of his intention to cling to office ; Gagnon wore a furtive expression of countenance, suggestive of a tendency to bolt ; McShane looked stern and uncompromising—expressive of unyielding opposition to tramway bills and other iniquities—and so on all round the circle. Meantime Taillon, the jovial baritone who so ably leads the Opposition, did his best (as in duty bound), to "upset the Government" by making remarks calculated to produce sudden alterations in

the expression of the sitters. In due time, the photographer levelled his lens at the Opposition benches and it was then the time of the Government fellows to make disturbing remarks. The various groups are to be patched together, (if it is found possible to harmonize Quebec political factions even on paper) and the complete chamber will thus be given to the world. It is certainly a tribute to the innate passion for art in the *Canadien* breast that time could be made for this photographic *séance* in the midst of a pressure of business which demands three sessions per day. And it shows that the Quebec law-makers (notwithstanding the state of their treasury) have souls above the sordid affairs of state. There is a weighty lesson here for the Ontario Assembly, who give no time at all to the cultivation of the Beautiful.

JUBILEE LAYS.

It seems that a contemporary of ours in this city has offered a premium for the best jubilee poem, and a great many of the Jubilee poets appear to regard GRIP as the miscreant, if we may judge by the immense number of effusions we receive weekly. We can account for manuscripts being addressed to us rather than to the other fellow, only for a reason similar to that urged by the Scottish beadle to whom the minister said one day, "John, how is it that when you go among the people you always come home drunk ? You never see me do that."

"Na," said John, "but I account for that this way, that I'm mair pop'lar in the parish than ye are."

However it may be in this case, we can only say that if the man who conceived the plot receives but half as many more as come to us by mistake, it will require a good many years and a large number of able-bodied men to make a satisfactory award. We used to forward the competing documents to our respected (and, hitherto, respectable) contemporary, in batches of from fifteen to twenty, on the arrival of every mail, but for the last three weeks we have found it more economical to engage an express wagon once daily for the same purpose.

The chief of our M.S. reading staff has made extracts from a few of the choicest productions, on the plea that even although the material is not really for GRIP, and not up to our standard anyhow, there are yet occasional stanzas in a vein so original or humorous as to be worthy of a place in our columns. Here is one :—

"Most august And seraphic queen vic-
toria you Are Now No chick
And thy people Are Able to lick
All other Nations."

There *is* humor in this, but we don't quote it for that—it is the originality, the Archaic simplicity, as it were, of the sentiment that strikes us.

The following is remarkable mainly for the quaint turn given in the third line :—

"Send her victorious
Happy and glorious
Queen so notorious,
Empress of Ind."

Space precludes further extracts this week, but in our next issue we will perhaps give a number of unique extracts, especially one beginning :—

"Hail, all hail ! Our mighty and well-beloved sovereign, Victoria
Alexandrina—Queen."

"CONSIDER yourself engaged for this set," as the ring said to the diamond.