

Let us hope that political retaliation is a thing of the past, only to be remembered as childish and undignified. It is true that a portion of the Press still advocates retaliation, but we trust such advocacy may in nowise influence sober minded men. It may be galling to the Liberals to see a large number of Conservatives in government employ, but any attempt at retaliation on the part of the former (should they come into power) must necessarily involve us in fresh perplexities. It is time that we should use our political power as men rather than as school-boys. We have had enough of political bickering—let us in future look to self-government as a means of improving our position in the eyes of ourselves and of the world. It is mere folly to convene meetings for the discussion of great topics while we waste our strength in disputing the claims of Postmistresses: it is idle to talk of Colonial Federation so long as we are at issue concerning the vote of a Light House keeper. Let those now in minor public employ, hold their appointments during their life time, and let death vacancies be filled up in accordance with the wishes of those in authority when such vacancies occur. But in the name of common sense let us hear of no more dismissals for aught save inefficiency, or clearly proved misconduct.

OUR FARM.

IV.

I told you last week how Mr. BLUENOSE by a laziness which in most people would be condemned as culpable, but which in his case was put down to a good nature averse to all interference in the affairs of his tenantry, smiled and winked at the road-making going on within his domains. BLUENOSE is an easy going man and allows many bad things under his very nose. BLUENOSE is constantly gazing at STARRS, and although his wisest farmers and tenants condemn that gentleman's system of farming, BLUENOSE in his heart of hearts clings to the belief that though as yet undeveloped, STARRS's system is the best.

In nothing does STARRS's system of farm management agree better with BLUENOSE's ideas, than that part of it which accords to idle scribblers upon walls, a seat at the masters board. At BULL's place, and indeed upon most of the fruit county estates, certain labourers have for many years been in the habit of writing on well known sign-posts and palings, the current price of wheat, accounts of the lawsuits in which BULL or any other large proprietors were engaged, and denouncing the at- tempts of known and convicted poachers. If any of these statements were false, the next day a retutation appeared written underneath the falsehood, and even though the original statement were true certain cavilling labourers would oftentimes dispute their veracity by sophistical reasonings. This did no harm, for the latter were always, refuted in their turn by writing underneath. Farmer Giles having sold a peck of malt at so much, said so, and it was made public on the paling. Farmer Scroggins perhaps had sold a peck of malt somewhat cheaper, that fact also was placed underneath the statement of Mr. Giles. Scroggins though jealous perhaps of Giles did not use hard words against him, and the other farmers struck a whole- some balance between the two prices of malt.

BLUENOSE however allowed the STARR system of post writing to come into play on his farm. It was simply this. Farmer Murphy has a fine drove of pigs for sale and sells them at a fair price for himself. Mr. Tatoes also has some swine on hand of which he is desirous to dispose. Running to the nearest sign post, way post, or conspicuous paling on the farm he writes up in chalk—"I know that Farmer Murphy's pigs will never make good pork." Murphy full of honesty but being unfortunately human, writes underneath this porcine denunciation, "The writer of the above though doubtless meaning well to his fellow labourers has in my opinion fallen into an error. My pigs will probably be productive of excellent pork." Tatoes furious at the calmness of the answer, but seeing in the word *my* that Murphy penned the answer writes at once, "Murphy is

a liar." The latter retaining his temper underlines in chalk the word *liar* and suggests, that since people of *that* class [are destined for future punishment, the probability is that he who wrote so offensive a word will not be forgotten in the lists made up for the hot place. But Murphy's high tone of feeling is altogether thrown away, as he will doubtless feel to his cost, when the next day Tatoes breaks his head within fifty yards of BLUENOSE's house. Such however, (though I have perhaps given an exaggerated case) is the present scribbling custom on our farm. Often and often does it occur that words such as these are found even on the pilasters of the Master's house, "B is a fool," and underneath "Mr. B has been called a fool, and perhaps justly. I can only say that he scorns the use of epithets, such as have disgraced the cheap chalk writing of the penniless skunk whose stench stile offends those who approach the house. I say he is a skunk and I am not a fool."

Thus it falls out that those labourers and farmers who are anxious for information on any subject, find on reference to the writings on the posts, nothing but low personalities totally without interest to all but the private friends of the squabblers. BLUENOSE however seems rather to relish such paltry disputes and often rewards, by a good place in his house, the scribblers of the smartest abuse. There are at this moment two countrymen on the farm who, having taken different views about a lawsuit pending between STARRS and one of his tenants called STRIPES, have long since ceased even to give reliable information about the disputes in question. Three or four times a week a prominent post is defaced with their stupid scurrilous. B., one day a short time ago wrote under something that A had written "A is a conceited donkey." Mr. B had not contradicted a word of A's original statement, but merely chaffed the writer. A unfortunately did not see it in this light but fancied his veracity impugned. "Hating," wrote he, "all that belongs to STARRS, I also abjure the low scribbling system in vogue on his estate and on this. I abhor personality, and wonder that B. should have descended so low as to call me a story-teller. I go on the BULL principle of post writing, scorning abuse, as equally lowering to the abuser and the abused. I can only conclude by saying that B, by calling me a donkey, has merited the contempt of every reasoning individual on the farm. Such a blackguard is not worthy of the notice of decent people and should be ducked in a horsepond. He should be treated as a toad or other noisome beast."—and then having no spleen left for more A concludes, "As I have said before I hate vulgar abuse and hope never to indulge in so vile a luxury."

Besides the waste of valuable space on the sign posts this kind of scribbling produced the worst possible effect upon those passers by, who took the trouble to examine the writings obtruded for their inspection. This they did more in the hope of finding smart retorts, than for information on any subject which could bear upon their own interests. This low standard of chalk marking soon acted upon all the lower class of farm-labourers and on every horse, stable, and cow-shed personal remarks were forced upon travellers in large letters. The very horses sometimes shied at the enormous chalk letters on their stable doors—and kine returning shedwards from the woods, failed to recognize their home, owing to the quantity of chalk expended in its decoration. BLUENOSE and his family approved of all this badinage, the girls loved it. Nothing pleased the latter more than to see their best friends name on every gate they passed in their daily walks. If he was abused, they bridled up and said "None so fit to refute a calmy as John! How he will come out!" If praised they said "How truly it is here said, that George is the best driver on the estate!" So all were well pleased and are well pleased, and personalities on posts rule the day.

SEWARD THE CHIVALROUS.

It is just now highly important that public attention should be directed to the official acts of those high in authority in the neighbouring States. We have lived to see America illustrating by her own disastrous failures, the truth of maxims which she long thought proper to have seen that man raised to power

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