

T H E N O T A W

CASPIGAT RIDENDO MORES.

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THE S A W

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THE ADVENTURES

OF A

MONTREALER

OR EIGHT DAYS IN QUEBEC.

The Chief Manager took his seat amid the most profound silence, and in a voice denoting extreme nervousness (for he seemed to have some idea of what would follow) cried out, *Pétitions! Pétitions!* The effect was electric, the iron safe in the lower part of the building clattered furiously, the wall seemed to shake it's very base, as if visited by an earthquake, and amid the great uproar and confusion, in rushed the "Petitioners" from all parts of the building, completely crushing in their attack a few of the company who were seated at the upper part of the horseshoe, on the right of the Chief Manager, and who could offer but a feeble resistance to such overwhelming numbers.

After order was somewhat restored, one of the petitioners nearest the Chief, thus spoke. Worshipful Sir, "I, and my friend here, (pointing in the direction of that individual) are Codificators, Consolidators and Amplifiers; We have by extraordinary labor and untiring industry mended your nets, filled up your blanks, left no loop-hole through which the common or uncommon fry, who come within your gates, can by any possibility escape, therefore Sir, since we have conferred such immense benefits upon you, since we have assisted in making you the great company you are now noto-

riously acknowledged to be, grant, oh grant us some return for our favors, give us that which we stipulated for and which your worship must admit we have justly earned, for your Committee have declared it," here he paused, and the chief broke the silence by saying, "Gentlemen, I have consulted the high priest of our corporate, and now consolidated, though unfortunately disunited body, he informs me, that although the "bargain" was a "bad" one, still it must be made "good." You are to receive five hundred pounds as a return for your services," (here there was a great outcry among some of the members of the company at the liberality of their chief,) but to no purpose, the mandate had gone forth.

The next who presented himself was a man of medium height, dark complexioned, apparently about forty-five years of age, dressed in a suit of black, he thus introduced himself to the chief. "Illustrious Sir, I am Inspector of the dark apertures, through which the smoke from the hearths of the members of your company and your company's people, issues, behold me now, even as I present myself sooty and dirty from the various regions of darkness, through which I have wandered," hear his eloquent appeal, and dark designs upon the pocket of the chief, were interrupted by one or two of the members, one in particular stating that this petitioner, did not merit the increase of salary prayed for, for two reasons, first, because he did not attend to the duties of his office, and secondly, by reason of his not being fudable at any time when required, (this interruption got over, the petitioner with a glance of dark meaning at the last speaker,) continued, "I have increased the revenue of your company twofold by my vigilance, I have discovered chimnies and pipe-holes where my predecessors did not consider any existed, and in fact (here he lowered his voice) where they did not really exist, I have done." The chief interpreting the favorable looks of the majority of his company answered,—"Knight of Erebus,"—Thy prayer is granted, the increase you must have, here he con-

cluded with a quotation from "Milton's Paradise Lost."

"Though our City to Hell should go
Still musts we satten such as you Can-
[pean.]"

The next petitioner evidently a mere youth, drawing himself up to his full height, thus set forth his claim,—Worthy chief,—"Although my appearance would denote that I am of tender years, and that worldly cares have not yet had time to furrow my brow, yet Sir, are my troubles overwhelming, what, Sir, between the labor of filling up, arranging, placing and laying down, in it's aotted and proper position, the snuff-box, belonging to your Surveyor or of Lanes, Alleys and By-Ways, combined Sir, with the laborious duty of cleaning the aforesaid gentleman's spectacles every morning with a canvass map of your City, drawn in the year 1870, upon which there are so many streets laid down, that the map is completely covered with dirt and mud, together with my being compelled by the arbitrary laws which govern society to support a better half amid all my trials, can you arrive at any other conclusion, if you take all I have mentioned into consideration than that my services are worth one dollar and fifty cents per day? *Je ne pense pas*, carried.

Finding that all the demands were so successful, I thought I would get up a petition, before this generous assembly dispersed for the night, so vacating the seat I had occupied during the evening I made my way with much difficulty to the front rank, of the petitioners, and immediately taking advantage of the general stillness caused by my approach, with a low bow, there addressed the chief, "May it please your Worship,—I arrived here from Montreal about eight days ago, and having a large quantity of goods which I purpose bringing down during the coming winter or early in the spring and feeling desirous of conferring a benefit upon your City, by pointing out a necessary improvement and also in order to facilitate the landing of my merchandize, I would most humbly beg your Honor and the honorable members of your company to cause a