

WHEN HE STOPPED PAYMENT.

The bullying manner sometimes assumed by certain barristers in cross-examination, in order to confuse a witness and make his replies to important questions hesitating and contradicting, is notorious, and many are the tales told of "cute" witnesses, who have turned the tables on the persecutors. The following relates to a case of this kind. In a civil action on money matters the plaintiff had stated that his financial position was always satisfactory. In cross-examination he was asked if he had ever been bankrupt. "No," was the answer. Next question was, "Now, be careful; did you ever stop payment?" "Yes," was the reply. "Ah," exclaimed the counsel, "I thought we should get at it at last. When did that happen?" "After I paid all I owed," was the answer. This produced a roar of laughter, in which the learned judge heartily joined; even the usher was unable to call "Silence!" being seized with such a fit of merriment that he had to be carried out. After that the court adjourned for luncheon.

HOW TO COLLECT ACCOUNTS.

The following pithy "dun" is from a circular sent out by a printer in Moline, Illinois, and speaks for itself: "My dear Sir,—I want to ask you a plain question. Suppose you were as poor as Job's turkey, and had invested \$15,000 or \$16,000 in an enterprise, which you designed to make an exclusively cash business; suppose you had trusted your work all over the country, until your funds were played out; suppose you had claims coming against you in the hands of business men who had accommodated you in good faith, and needed their money; suppose you had some pride in you, and meant to be 'square-toed' and 'punctual,' and hated to see a man who you owed when you hadn't the legal tender in your trousers to pay his just and lawful demands, worse than you would see an injin or the devil; and suppose those whom you had accommodated came into town and left without even paying a part, 'what would you do?' Would you let your debts go,

'And smile, and smile, and smile,
And be a villain all the while?'

or would you sue every mother's son of them that didn't pay you, if he were the last man you ever transacted business with? If you were an honest man, you would do the latter, and that's just what I'll be compelled to do, and 'will do.' I don't want money to look at; I don't want any to salt down (I never could make it keep); but one or two thousand trusted out, I humbly want a 'few hundred,' and I'll be bound if I won't have it, or an execution returned *nulla bona*. And now 'I want what is owed to me'; it is a small amount to you, but it means hundreds of dollars to me. I will be found at my office, ready to inform you of the amount of your indebtedness, and to square up. Get my receipt for your account, and my soul, as well as yours, will rejoice. I love you myself as a mother loveth her firstborn, but I love to pay my debts better than I love any man, woman, or child, on the face of this earth, and by the Great Continental Congress I propose to do it, if I have to make costs for every man in Rock Island County. Now, let's have the 'Spondulix,' and see how sweetly and prettily I can smile on you."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN PRODUCE.

Another aspect of this question of the competition of foreign with home produce was disclosed recently in the House of Commons, when Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, in his official capacity as Secretary to the Admiralty, confessed that nearly £1,000 worth of butter had been purchased for use in Her Majesty's navy from Denmark, in preference to any derived from home sources. The explanation was that butter hitherto made and tinned at home had failed to hold its own against the butter selected by a committee for use in officers' mess. The Secretary to the Admiralty appeared to think that some apology was needed for the apparently unpatriotic admission, and he proceeded to hope that "the attention now being paid to butter-making, especially at the instance of agricultural societies and county councils, will soon result in our tinned butter being at least equal to that of any other country." The admission thus made in high quarters that foreign butter has

been found better prepared in at least one form than English, coincides with opinions which have frequently shaped themselves of late amongst trade organizations, that while in Great Britain and Ireland there are plenty of well constructed dairies fitted in a way to enable them to hold their own against the world, there are thousands of butter makers who fail to bring their commodity up to a high class marketable standard. Their want of success is due, in the opinion of many, more to carelessness than to any real want of ability; and, if so, it is to be hoped that the remarks of Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth will help to awaken dealers of this class out of the apathy they display towards so important an industry.—*Grocers' Review, Manchester.*

MONTREAL COAL PURCHASES.

There is a great increase in the import of coal from the lower ports during the past month over the two preceding months, says the *Montreal Gazette*. During the month of May there arrived in the port of Montreal 50,600 tons, during the month of June there arrived 92,140 tons, while last month there arrived 135,345 tons, which is double the amount received during the month of May. It must, however, be taken into account that during the month of May there were only 25 trips made, while last month there were 56 trips and included several vessels of regular lines which coming from the Old Country in ballast as far as Sydney loaded there large cargoes of coal for this port.

A tabulated statement for past three months is then published giving the name of vessel, tons of coal carried and to whom consigned. We can only give the totals here:—

May—25 cargoes.....	50,600 tons.
June—38 ".....	92,140 "
July—56 ".....	135,345 "

Total 278,085 "

THE SITUATION AT WASHINGTON.

There is evidence from trustworthy sources that the firmness of the House and of the President, backed by the sentiment of the nation, is telling on the three or four senators who have been threatening to kill all tariff legislation if the Sugar Trust be not satisfied. These men now see that they are in grave danger of being taken at their word. So far from frightening the representatives of the people, these threats only expose the men who make them to public indignation. When Gorman, and Smith, and Brice fully understand that if the tariff bill fail, they will be responsible, they waver and hesitate. None of them, nor all of them together, can stand against the House, the President, and the people. That is what they must do or give up their servile obedience to the Trust. They cannot shift the burden. They tried to put it on the shoulders of the Louisiana senators, and the Louisiana senators threw it back. Every day that the settlement is deferred the position of these men becomes more untenable. It must in the end be abandoned.

Nor can these lonely and generally despised Senators even flatter themselves that it is in their power to serve their masters if they had the nerve to stand out against an agreement with the House. If by so doing the McKinley law could be secured for the Trust, they might possibly find their wages sufficient. But they can secure no such result for the Trust. The House would not give up and go home. The majority know that if they did they might never, as a majority, come back again. They would instantly pass a single, simple bill, putting all sugar on the free list, and that bill would go through the Senate. As an original measure much criticism could be passed upon it, but its ultimate supreme advantage, compensating all else, would be that it would rebuke and defeat the plots of the Sugar Trust, its Senators, and its lobby. It would clean the Capitol, and no Senator within its walls would ever again try to sell to that gigantic monopoly the power by taxation to enrich its shareholders and its bribe-takers beyond the dreams of avarice.

It was the decided opinion of Wall Street that the refusal of the Senate's conferees to make any concessions on the sugar schedule was proof that the grip of

the Trust on its Senators had not been relaxed, and while the general tendency of other securities was downward, those of the Sugar Trust were buoyant. It is in these conditions precisely that the Trust finds an opportunity secretly to confer wealth upon those who, in public life, consent to do its bidding. It is a shameful thing that a large part of the operations of Wall Street should be simply wagers on the successful corruption of a branch of Congress.—*New York Times.*

TEA AND THE EASTERN TROUBLES.

The New York importers of tea declare that so far the price of the fragrant leaf has not been affected by the hostilities between China and Japan.

"Unless the ports of the two countries are blockaded," said a representative of Carter, Macy & Co., the tea importers at No. 142 Pearl street, New York, "the war will have little effect upon the tea market. The thing most to be feared is that the Japanese will blockade the Straits of Formosa, as the French once did. At that time the supply of tea was almost cut off. It is not likely, I think, that this will occur. With the great Chinese tea depots of Shanghai, Fou Chow and Amoy hemmed in by the Japanese, and Yokohama and Hiogo in Japan blockaded by the Chinese, the tea market would be demoralized. The season for the importation of tea is now at its height. Many of the first cargoes of tea are already here. Most of the Japanese tea has been received, and great quantities are yet to be shipped from China. The supply comes about equally from the two countries."

The tea merchants of New York have not been able to send any despatches in cypher to China, the cable companies refusing to accept any messages not written in English or some other known language.

—Chief Engineer Arthur gave the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers some good advice when he said "that during the past winter all of the people were taxed to their utmost to feed the poor and unemployed. It is wrong for any man, even though he has the authority, to order out thousands of working-men who have large families to support. I would rather be blamed by the men for not ordering a strike than to order them out and then receive their condemnation. It is not the right time to suspend work when the men have positions to fill and are entirely satisfied with their work." The poor striker in the town of Pullman puts the matter in a pathetic form when he says:—" 'Ungry we get up and 'ungry we go to bed, and the men wait ordered us out and the millionaires wait employed us get along just as well as ever.' He then sensibly concludes that there must be some better method of settling labor troubles than strikes.

—For the quarter ended with June the tonnage of shipping turned out of British yards was 718,204, which is 103,000 tons in excess of the product of the same period of last year. The total tonnage ordered but not commenced is 166,000, which is 126,000 tons less than this time last year. The shipping now under construction is more than last year. On the river Clyde there is an increase from 215,000 to 239,000; on the Tyne, from 113,000 to 131,000; on the Wear, from 79,000 to 112,000; at Middlesbrough and Stockton, from 45,000 to 69,000; at Hartlepool and neighboring points, from 33,000 to 54,000; at Barrow and neighboring points, from 19,000 to 24,000. Belfast, however, shows a decrease from 75,000 to 56,000.

—The Northwest Navigation Company's steamer "Colville" was burned to the waters edge at her dock, Grand Rapids, Man., at 4.30 on Sunday morning, the 15th inst. It is said that a quantity of mail matter was burned with her.

—"John," said an American manufacturer to his head clerk, "advertise for a legal adviser for a corporation, and put in 'good knowledge of the law required.' That will shut off half the ex-judges and misfits that apply."

—With a sardine factory and a factory for the canning of finnan haddies and other fish established in St. Andrews, it begins to look as if a new era was beginning to dawn for us—says the *Beacon*.