



WEFLECTIONS OF THE HON. C. BUFFER.

Haw—dy'e know that I have weflected consid-
erably on a subject which of late has engrossed
to a vewy great extont the public mind. I
allude to the subject of stwikes. The question
is, what may be with gwoat pwopriety called a
vexed one. The wight aw wong of the mattah
depends altogether upon the twon and weal
condition of business affaihs welaying to the
intewests of both employed and—aw—employ-
ers. Let us say that an employah take a con-
tract to pelfawm a cehtan work, and cehtain
otheh people in the same twade, likewise seek-
ing the job, and offohwng theah—aw—tendehs,
or what evah these people call it, at a low wate,
have obliged him to figel what is called
"pweTTY fine" to make a pwofit, and that he
bases his pwopective pwofits out of the undeht-
taking to a considwable extont on the wate of
wages, he will have to pay his awtizans and—
aw—otheh w'king people on the "job." Let
us—aw—assume that the contract taken gives
but a small mawgin of pwofit, when wages aw
at a cehtan figeh, no mattah what, and that a
wise of wages, not heahtofoah taken into con-
sideration will weduce the pwofits of the—aw—
masteh or contractuh, aw whatevah he is
called, to nil, he, the contractah, at oahsaid, will
naturally demur at giving the—aw—asked faw
wise to his wch'kmon. Not being intewsted
eitheh in the "masteh" aw "sehvant" I—aw—
imagine that I can give an unbiasid opinion
on the mattah, and howeh much I may sym-
pathise with the man who labahs for his daily
bread, I considah that the employah who, by
his industry and oneh'gy has awisen to the—
aw—position of mastah, has cehtain intewests
and wights that cah'tainly ought to be wespe-
cted. The mastah, doubtless, was at one time a
wch'kingman himself, and nodoubt undeht'stands
the position of the employehs as well as they do
themselves. Moaboveh, they must be fow
among the "wch'king classes" who do not
aspiah at some futuh time to wise in theah
business and become employahs themselves,
when they pwobably would take the same view
of affaihs as the pwsent mastahs do. Ewewy-
body cannot be mastahs, and the one who
by his oneh'gy, or otheh means, wises to that
position, naturally expects to make a comfah-
table pwofit out of his undehtakings, otheh-
wise what would be the use of, or sense
of, his aspirations. His capital and business
expewience is employed in his avocation, and
he as a wale should be wespected by those he
gives employment to, instead of being made
out to be theah enemy. In a countwy like this,
weah any man may wise in his business posi-
tion in a shawt time, fwom that of employeh
to employah, the application of such language
as is wewanted coming from the stwikehs at
theah meetings to the "bosses," stwikes me as
being by no means wight, and only stirs up an
antagonistic feeling without any weason theah-
faw. On the otheh hand, I must confess that
undeht cehtain conditions wheahin wch'king
people by a collusion of capitalists are syste-
matically underpaid and made to wch'k faw
"stawation wages" they aw quite wight in so
doing, altho' in so doing they almost of neces-
sity must make "mawtch" of themselves to the
"cause." But stwikes undeht mostly all
cihconstances aw a losing game, and a so-acc-

of hawt-beh'ning, not only to the stwikehs
themselves but much moah so to theah families.
Let us say the dispute between the "boss"
and the awtizin is twenty-five cents peh day,
(which is the diffevence, I undehtstand now ex-
isting in some twades in Towonto), and in con-
sequence of the wefusal of the "Mastah" to
gwant the extwa twenty-five cents the men
stwike faw, let us say, sixty wch'king days—and
his fawmeh wages at the wate of \$2.00 peh day
—he would lose diwectly though his stwiking
\$12.0. Then let us assume that at the expiwa-
tion of the sixty days the "boss" succumbs
to his demand, and the twenty-five cents extwa
peh day is given, it will take him four hun-
dred and eighty days, on the extwa wages to
make up faw his lost time. So at best it is but
as I said befaw a losing game, especially when
the increased expenditwah naturally awising
fwom a pehched state of mind consequent upon
his enfauced idleness, a great deal of the un-
necessawy outlay going doubtless into the
coffahs of some of the "licensed" fwateh'nity,
who have so ostentatiously come to the wescue
of the "wch'king man," who it appeahs have
theah vewy gweatest sympathy! In an Eng-
lish papoh, *The Standard*, I woad in the w-
pooat of a meeting in the Mansion House on the
5th inst. that in Canada sawpentohs get fwom
12 to 14 shillings stwelling, bwiclayahs and
plastewahs 20 to 25 shillings peh day, and
otheh mechanichs and—aw—awtizans at simi-
lah figehs. The awticle winds up with the
statement that the English awtizans considh
that Canada must be an El Dowada indeed,
but the papoh asks the vewy peh'tinent ques-
tion, "How long will it last?" It appeahs to
me that a vewy wofay coloh is given to the state
of wch'kingmens affaihs hoah, and that they
pehwaps judge fwom the wewants of the ex-
awbiant wages demanded in Manitoba. In this
they au wong, faw such wages as \$7.00 a day,
cawnt possibly last long in Manitoba au any
weah else. Ya'as—indeed, these stwikes au
unfawtunate occoh'ences, and I hope things
will be awanged amicably between both in-
tewests as soon as possible—I do indeed.

The Light Fantastic.

DEAR GRIP,—The Governor-General's ball
was just too lovely for anything; although
people who were not invited did not enjoy it at
all, and declare that it was badly managed—as
to the invitations, of course—and very mixed
indeed; however, they may console themselves
with the reflection that had they been invited it
would certainly have been still more mixed.

But GRIP has no sour grapes to cry, so we
can afford to tell the truth, and allow that it
was the most magnificent and the best managed
ball ever given in Montreal, and that our good
Governor-General makes the most gracious and
perfect of hosts.

His Excellency only danced the first set with
an elderly lady, Mrs. Thos. Ryan. This was
most self-denying and sensible, for the Marquis
is a most graceful dancer, but had he continued
to make selections of partners, the green-eyed
monster would have reigned in the breast of all
but the favored few, while they—to use a Yan-
keeism—would have been "tickled to death."
Of course in an assemblage of well-bred people,
and where all the arrangements were perfect in
every particular, but little fun for GRIP could
be found, but during one little episode of the
evening had GRIP himself been present, he might
have found subject for a cartoon. A low crim-
son corered railing ran round the dancing
floor (which was laid over the tops of the chairs)
where it joined the raised floor under the gal-
lery, and several of the chaperones who had
taken a position under "D," that they
might be more easily accessible to their charges,
remained standing just before this railing.
Presently a bevy of young beauties returned to
the shelter of the maternal wings after a waltz,

and feeling tired, yielded to the temptation to
lean against the frail railing; then suddenly
there was a crash of breaking boards, a roudado
of suppressed shrieks, and a disappearance of
fair maidens, and portly matrons, only a few
pairs of tiny boots in an unusually elevated
position remaining to mark the spot, but for-
tunately our gallant Dr. Fisher was at hand,
and the bundle of silks, satins, laces, and sweet
pretty faces was speedily disintegrated, and re-
stored to its various understanding. Luckily
our good doctor's further services were found to
be unnecessary, as no bones were broken, and
but slight bruises incurred. Every guest at the
ball went away well-pleased, and more in love
with the Marquis than ever, and earnestly pray-
ing that our dear Princess may soon be so re-
stored to health that she may be enabled to re-
turn to Canada, and make our Governor-Gen-
eral as happy as he certainly deserves to be.

NINA D'AVRIN.

Laid on the Shelf.

Mr. Thomas Claydon, Shelburne, Ont.,
writes: "I have been suffering with a lame
back for the past thirty years, and tried every-
thing I heard of without success. Not long ago
I was persuaded to use St. Jacobs Oil, I pur-
chased a bottle, and, strange to say, before I
had used it all, I was perfectly cured. I can
confidently recommend it to any one afflicted.
No one can speak too highly of its merits."
Mr. W. E. Weeckly, also of Shelburne, thus
mentions a matter of his experience: "I have
been a sufferer with rheumatism for years, I
was laid up with a severe attack a short time
ago, and I can truly say that St. Jacobs Oil
produced the quickest relief that I ever ex-
perienced. I cheerfully recommend it to every
sufferer."



THE BEAUTIES OF FRENCH.

A FACT.—Scene, Emerson, Man.

A well-known government official being in-
vited to a dinner party at St. Vincent, goes to
the station-master and requests the favor of
a locomotive to carry him to that point—as no
regular train happens to be going at the re-
quired time. The request is kindly granted,
and an Irishman is sent with the "conve-
nience," according to agreement, to a point adjacent to
the official's residence. After waiting a reason-
able length of time, Pat returns and reports
that he can see nothing of the gentleman.
Next morning, Mr. Official comes down in a
passion and accuses the Milesian. "Why in
thunder didn't you come for me last night with
that engine. I was on the *qui vive* watching
for you three hours!" "Sure, sir," replies
Pat. "I did go, and av yez had come down
from the *quay rayce* and staid on the shtoop
yez wud have seen the engine!"