

succeeded in obtaining a seat in Parliament for Maidstone, and his first effort in the House of Commons was considered a failure. He was a great master of sarcasm, and was very bitter against Sir Robert Peel, when that eminent statesman adopted his free trade policy, about five and thirty years ago. He then allied himself to the late Earl of Derby and Lord George Bentinck, whose early death placed Mr. Disraeli in the position of leader of the Conservative party in the House of Commons. On the retirement of the Earl of Derby from public life, Mr. Disraeli became the recognized head of the Conservatives. He had married the widow of his old colleague, Mr. Wyndham Lewis, who was possessed of large means, and he also, like the Earl of Chatham, received a considerable legacy from a lady who was an admirer of his political principles. His wife was created a peeress some years before her decease as Viscountess Beaconsfield. The title is taken from a place in Buckinghamshire, the former residence of Edmund Burke, who was at one time likely to have been created a peer by the same title. The death of his son is said to have prevented his acceptance of hereditary rank. During his last premiership, and subsequent to the death of his wife, Mr. Disraeli was created Earl of Beaconsfield. He was in his 76th year at the time of his death.

#### MUCH ADO ABOUT "OLD RYE"

What appears to be rather a cruel hoax has been perpetrated upon a mercantile firm in this city, and at the same time probably upon a young "Mercantile Agency," against whom legal proceedings have been taken by the firm to recover the amount of the loss. The old firm of Winning, Hill & Ware of this city, manufacturers of and dealers in cordials, and in liquors, at a short notice, of any age required, were succeeded a few years ago by Hill, Mitchell & Co., of which business Mr. Wm. Mitchell and a party in Ottawa shortly afterwards became proprietors, continuing the business under the same name. The latter firm failed some two years ago (they are now applying for a discharge), and were succeeded by their bookkeeper, C. H. Cordingley, and J. G. C. Meagher, the latter formerly agent in this city for McMurray & Fuller of Toronto. The new firm, notwithstanding the handsome profits, were careful salesmen, and availed themselves of every means of keeping informed as to the standing of their customers. Among other ways and means they subscribed to the "Agency" of Gagnon Bros. & White, whose business has till lately been chiefly confined to the Province of Quebec. In August last Cordingley & Co. received a letter from Ayton, Ont., in which the writer, after referring to a circular handed him, gave a small order for a supply of "bottled liquors." We give the correspondence *verbatim et literatim*:

"As this is our first dealings," wrote he, "probably you will require testimonials or references as to our financial standing &c.; for this we refer you to the Postmaster, I. Wenger, general merchant and miller, or to Thomas Covil, merchant. We will either pay you cash 30 days or give note at your usual terms 4 months, as you wish. Trusting you will fill order promptly as we are just out, I am yours truly, HENRY BUSHNELL, Ayton P.O., Clifford Station.

The foregoing was dated the 12th. The manufacturers of "fine old liquors" applied to the "Agency" for information, but were told there was no such name in any of the records. The inquirers, it is claimed, requested them to write to the references given, which they appear to have done, and also to Mr. J. Pinkerton. In due time the following apparently satisfactory report was furnished by Messrs. Gagnon Bros. & White:

"Bushnell, Henry, General store, Ayton P.O., Grey Co., Ont.—Age about 32; married; was formerly a clerk in similar line. Commenced on his own account about 2 years ago with small means, and has since done fairly in a moderate way. Is a steady industrious man, and possessed of fair capacity. Owns no real estate known of, all his capital being employed in his business. Carries a stock of about \$2,000, and those who are fully acquainted with his affairs estimate him worth from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Appears to be doing fairly at the present time, and thought making some headway, though slowly. Reputed to meet engagements on the whole satisfactorily, and for a reasonable bill would be considered a fair risk.—Aug., 80."

The inquiry set afoot caused some delay in shipping. On the 24th August, Messrs. Cordingley & Co. received the following letter, by which it will be perceived he is "almost out;" he was "just out" on the 12th:

"Your invoice and letter dated the 14th is received stating you had shipped my little lot of goods, but up to this date I have not received them, as I am almost out and need them, you will oblige by tracing them up or forwarding me the shipping bill. With regard to me having Mr. Wenger endorse my paper would state I can comply with your terms, but would just as soon pay you cash if you allow a reasonable discount, and on receipt of goods I will remit you the amount. Can you not put in your 5 yr. old Rye at a lower figure for cash and would you sell it by the five gallon keg. Please that I receive the goods as soon as possible. Your early attention will oblige, yours truly,—H. BUSHNELL, Ayton via Clifford."

The goods were shipped accordingly, and duly elicited the following communication, dated Sept. 11th:

"The consignment of bottled liquors reach me only on the 28th inst. [sic] which you will perceive by enclosed card or you would have heard from me sooner. The goods proved satisfactory especially the 5 yr. old rye which people thought excellent. I think of bottling and labelling it myself. I believe I could make it pay. You may therefore send me by freight via Clifford Station at once, 1 keg of 20 galls. of your 5 yr. old, also please send a fresh invoice of the last lot I got, as the one sent got mislaid and I could not remember the amount, else I should have remitted with this. I think of using up a quantity of your 5 yr. old rye, probably would prefer 3 mos. on some. I would offer you Henry Ringell as security who is worth in real estate \$4000, or R. Smith, postmaster, who is also an owner of several farms, as to Isaac Wenger he is a man I have no dealings with. Yours very truly,—HENRY BUSHNELL, G. T. R. to Toronto, thence G. W. R. to Clifford Station.—N.B.—Either of the above parties I offer as security is perfectly good, if you inquire of Mr. Wenger he will no doubt corroborate it."

Whether, like Rip Van Winkle, the writer of the foregoing epistles went off on a several years' snooze, or the "5 yr. old Rye" sent him to his longest sleep, or that the maker of the liquor accidentally hit upon the "elixir of youth," by which a man of 32 was transformed into a boy of 18, nobody seems to know, but it will be observed that the orthography and etymology are somewhat worse, and the ideas rather confused. The shippers of the goods had grown quite uneasy on the subject when on the 20th of December their collecting agents received the following note:

Ayton, Dec. the 20.

Dear Sir,—Having receive a letter from you fore the sum of \$57.05 I owe these parties nothing and will not pay them I am nothing but a mear printes to the waggon maker in the village of Ayton,—I remain your turely

HENRY BUSHNELL, Ayton, Ont.

The following declaration was obtained a few days ago by the gentlemen who are watching the case for the claimants:

I, Noah Wenger of Ayton in the County of Grey, in the Province of Ontario, bookkeeper do solemnly declare: 1o. I reside in Ayton and have done so for six years. 2o. During the month of August, eighteen hundred and eighty, there was no person named Henry Bushnell in business in the said village, nor to my knowledge has there ever been a person of that name engaged in keeping store in the said village. 3o. I know one Henry Bushnell of this village. He is a lad about eighteen years of age and is an apprentice wagonmaker. He has never been in business here, and is not married. He is the only person of that name in this place, and was the only person of that name here last August. And I make this declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and in virtue of an act passed in the 37th year of Her Majesty's reign entitled "An Act for the suppression of voluntary and extra judicial oaths.

And I have signed,  
NOAH WENGER.

Declared before me at Ayton  
this 12th day of April, 1881.

R. H. LANGDALE,  
A Commissioner in B.R., &c.

Cordingley & Co. are accordingly taking legal proceedings against the "Agency" to recover \$55.88, the amount of the goods shipped; while Gagnon Bros., the present proprietors of the "Agency," are claiming on the other hand some \$40, the amount of a renewal subscription according to the terms of the contract, by which, if the old book be not returned at the expiry of the year agreed on, the subscriber renders himself liable for another year. It is to be regretted that the disputants cannot find some less expensive mode of settling such a trifle. But the law it appears must be maintained.

SUMMER HOTELS.—"It takes a mighty smart man to run a hotel," says the American proverb, but it does not mean that a man must be possessed of extraordinary ability to run a hotel into the ground. Mr. Lindsey of the Preble House, Portland, Me., formerly joint lessee of the Fabian House, White Mountains, N.H., and latterly lessee of the Ocean House, Old Orchard Beach, is reported—to put it mildly—as being unable to "make it pay." Those who knew Mr. Lindsey best are not altogether surprised at the result. Although of antediluvian stature and obliging manners he had scarcely enough mental backbone to successfully "run" a large