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A CHANGE OF POLICY.

HE SAW SIR JOHN.

They were both farmers,—as the poet singeth, “horny-handed sons of toil,”—one from the county Bruce and the other from “down East.” They were standing at the corner of King and Yonge streets talking about the spring crops and the Conspiracy case. Having exhausted these subjects they commenced on the Dominion License Act, and both being Conservatives they were naturally eulogistic of the great qualities and wonderful ability of Sir John Macdonald.

“I’ve had a perty good time since I’ve been in the city,” said the Down-Easter, “but of thar ever wuz a riled man he wuz whar I wuz this mornin’.”

“Why, how was that?” asked his Brother-Granger from Bruce.

“Well, ye see, ‘Liza an’ me an’ the children wuz passin’ that place they call the Zoo, an’ I heard a man ask the ticket man of Sir John wuz inside to-day. The ticket-man said he wuz. Great taters! but my heart gev a jump! I walked right up an’ asked the tikeeter of it wuz really true that Sir John wuz inside the fence. He said it wuz. That settled it. I didn’t ask him no more questions, but went down into my boot an’ pulled out my purse. I bought tickets fur the hull lot of us, fur I was bound that ‘Liza an’ the youngsters

’ud see the greatest man that ever riz in Canada. I jest ached to pint him out to the boys an’ say ‘Thar’s the man thet made this great country what it is!’ Well, we went inside an’ the hull place wuz lined with big bird cages filled with lions an’ raccoons an’ tigers an’ three-legged dogs an’ monkeys, jest like in a circus tent. Thar wuz a dead whale thet could swaller ten like Jonah knew or chaw up a barn-yard full of pigs and then feel hungry. Well, you can jest bet I didn’t give a cuss fur the cattle thar wuz to be seen. It wuz Sir John I wuz after an’ I started to look fur him. Great cats! but I felt tickled, an’ I wondered ef he’d know me fur I heerd him speak once down in our county. ‘Why,’ said I to ‘Liza,’ ‘its worth the hull trip to get a look at thet man.’ Well, thar wuz a kind of place rigged up like a theayter an’ says I to ‘Liza,’ ‘He’ll be right in thar talking to the folks.’ But he wasn’t. So I went up to a feller who was a pokin’ at a lion with an old hoe handle, an’ I asked him ef he would be so kind as to pint out Sir John to me. ‘Why cert’nly,’ he says, an’ he took me an’ ‘Liza an’ the youngsters round to the front of the place. I couldn’t see any man that looked like the picture of Sir John we have hangin’ up in the spare bedroom at home, so I wuz jest agoin’ to ask the Zoo man where he wuz when he stopped all of a sudden an’ said ‘This is Sir John an’—”

“And did he know you?” enquired the man from Bruce.

“Did he know me? Why it wuzn’t a man at all—it wuz a durned old frizzly-skinned elephant. No, it wuzn’t the greatest man thet ever riz in Canada—durnedest-looking old ramshackly beast I ever sot eyes on, an’ the words ‘Sir John’ wuz painted on a sheet slung across his back. Well, you bet I didn’t let the folks around see how bad I felt, but I jest took a youngster in each arm an’ told ‘Liza to bring the carpet bag an’ we got out o’ that concern faster ‘n a goat can skip. I call it a durned shame an’ a fraud, an’ as soon as I get back to hum I’m agoin’ to write to Sir John an’ ask him to pass a bill forbididin’ any Kangaroo show to take his name in vain.”

C. M. R.

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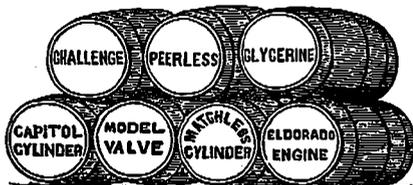


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