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THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The office of THE VARSITY is at the corner of Spadina Avenue and College Street, Rooms 2 and 3, in the third storey, where the EDITOR and the BUSINESS MANAGER will be found every evening from 7 to 8 p.m.

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FEBRUARY 15, 1893.

MOCK PARLIAMENT.



WITH the aid of the ferry-service now established in front of the Y.M.C.A. building we succeeded in making our way to Her Majesty's Loyal House of Commons. On arriving we heard a rumor that a member had been drowned in trying to ford a passage across, instead of engaging the ferry as he should have done. Ow-

ing to the absence of the Premier, who had gone to Montreal to speak in favor of woman's suffrage, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries led the House.

When the moment for action came the Minister of Finance rose, with public care graven on his front, and a mass of manuscript in his hand, to bring in the estimates for the session. Some of the proposals of the Government were startling, to say the least. They proposed to levy \$24,000,000 by direct taxation. The House looked intensely interested whilst the Minister explained his elaborate plan of income tax to increase in A. P. whilst income increased in G. P., etc., etc. From the thoughtful appearance of some few members it is supposed that they saw what the Minister was driving at, but this, we have every reason to believe, was purely accidental and without malice aforethought.

The financial genius of the Opposition, Mr. J. D. Phillips, rose to combat the Minister's proposals. The sad and almost wailing tone in which he lamented the aberrations of the Minister of Finance reminded us of some strict moralist of the olden time lamenting over the folly and wickedness of all men save himself. He declared that the Government never could levy such a vast tax directly; people would shoot the officers, etc. In short, if the Government put their foot on this tax they would fare worse than the proverbial man who gets on it when he walks across the carpet barefoot. The Honorable gentleman's attacks were so forcible that he might have convinced anyone save a member of the Government. The Solicitor General followed on the Government side, and Mr. Chalmers for the Opposition, both in very able and masterly addresses, as though they seriously thought of reasoning about the subject in hand, an absurdity so glaring as to cause one member, the *Steward* of the House, to exclaim in anguish, "Oh Lord, this is ridiculous!"

But now an unexpected turn was taken by the debate. The member who had gone for the "handful of silver" last session, Hon. Mr. Strath, had returned, and now rose to make a *slight* amendment to the motion before the House. This slight amendment consisted in the addition of a clause declaring in favor of political union with the United States.

"Oh, Romans, Romans, chink first and virtue only second!" To such desperate moves will Yankee boodle drive loyal Canadians. The Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Justice, who were expecting impeachment for their annexationist leanings, tried to look happy at this turn of affairs, but their relief was manifest when the Speaker ruled the amendment out of order.

Resuming the debate for the Government side, Mr. Meagan dwelt on the historical aspect of free trade. Although he did not go back to antediluvian times, he emphasized the fact that protectionism was only a thing of recent growth, having certainly emerged into historical importance some time later than the flood. The ex-Minister of Militia rose in reply, quivering with emotion. He was horrified to think that the Government dared to propose an increase in the excise duties on tobacco and liquors. As he dwelt on the sufferings these measures would entail on the industrious poor, to say nothing of the members of the Opposition or of his own personal interest in the matter, his words waxed eloquent; he spoke not to the intellect alone but to the heart as well, appealing to the House never to suffer those inalienable rights of a Canadian, his pipe and his beer, to be wrested from him by a ruthless Government. The House was visibly moved by his appeal.

After several other Honorable members had spoken, Mr. Culbert, who had been in close consultation with Mr. Strath, rose and moved the annexation amendment again. Again the Speaker uttered the formula, "Get thee behind me, Culbert," and after a few vigorous protests, which were of no avail, he "got," and the house was left free to consider the original motion.

During most of the evening there had been observable, a marked tendency on the part of members to gravitate to the Opposition side. Mr. McKinnon "bolted" from the Government just before the vote was taken, vainly defending his action on the ground that they had kept promising him an office for the past ten years—which said promise had not yet materialized. The result was the defeat of the Government. Men who were proprietors of pipes, heaved a long sigh of relief when the result was announced, evidently well pleased that the Government's tobacco proposals had gone up in smoke. As for myself, I wended my way to my lodgings, thinking with a heavy heart of the number of lies I would have to tell my constituents, now that the session was over, and I would have to go and give an account of the deeds done by me in the House of Commons of Canada.

"KLEISER'S STAR COURSE."

Mr. Grenville P. Kleiser has decided to establish a permanent course of winter entertainments in Toronto, to be given in the Pavilion, by such well-known celebrities as Marshall P. Wilder, Frank Lincoln, James Whitcomb Riley, George Kennan, General Lew Wallace, Bill Nye, and others, of continental reputation. The Series will open to-morrow, Thursday evening, in the Pavilion, when the Rev. Robert Nourse of Washington, D. C., the greatest dramatic orator in the world, will deliver his masterly lecture on "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Referring to Mr. Nourse, the *New York Herald* says:

No report can do justice to this masterpiece of oratory. For nearly two hours the speaker held his audience with intensest interest, now thrilling them with his dramatic portrayals of character, now convulsing them with laughter by his sallies of wit, and anon moving them to tears by his pathos. It is safe to say that it was one of the greatest lectures ever given in this vicinity. The last scene in the laboratory, when Mr. Hyde had become hopeless of reformation, was a most consummate piece of dramatic presentation. The impersonation of the hopeless despair, and the raving devilish rage, was awful. A large number of seats have been subscribed for, and the Pavilion will doubtless be packed to the door.