

the skill and agility of a music hall artiste, and which I never expected to see anywhere but on the stage. The first performer tired, his place was taken by another, and he, in his turn, being supplanted by another aspirant to terpsichorean honors. The movements of the ladies were quite graceful, they keeping time to their partners.

The next dance, a quadrille, about to begin, I thought I might as well join in. Donning what I deemed my sweetest and most bewitching smile, I stepped up to a pretty, black-eyed maiden of 16 or so and softly asked if I might have the pleasure of a dance with her. My request was granted and we took our places. I noticed a white silk bow on her breast; which, the wearer being the handsomest girl present, I took to be a distinguishing mark, to denote that she was the bell of the ball. The fiddler, after the customary squeaking and scraping of tuning, began a lively air, and soon we were dancing with all the zest imaginable. I soon forgot that I had a stiff left foot which had hitherto prevented me from becoming a first-class step-dancer, and was performing such intricate movements with my pedal extremities which till then I had believed myself incapable of. In the middle of it all, while swinging my partner, a heavy hand was laid on my shoulder and turning I saw a burly young man with a girl by his side. He informed me that I was dancing with the bride, and that, wishing to avoid any trouble whatever between the groom and myself, he advised me to change partners. So this was the meaning of the bow,—a warning beacon to all strangers. I finished the dance with the partner selected for me. Suddenly there was a slight scuffle in a corner. One lady had been keeping her eye upon her lord and husband with such good, or rather, bad result that she had caught him with his arms each around the neck of a fair neighbor and gently wishing them the compliments of the season. The culprit was a big man, but as familiarity breeds contempt, nothing daunted by his size, his wife, a small woman, seized him by the ear and, with strong words of reproach, deliberately marched him home. Let us have pity on him. I stayed till after supper, which was served in an adjoining chamber, and consisted chiefly of every canned delicacy a store could furnish, with some very fine pies.

On reflecting next day on what I had seen, I was glad that I had had an insight into one of the phases of western life. I had thoroughly enjoyed myself, and so I think had everyone else, if looks counted for anything. To see these people dancing one would think they had not a care or trouble in the world. I suppose they take after their French ancestors, the greater portion of them being French half-breeds. Jokes and laughter were heard on all sides; white teeth were glistening as the owner's lips were curved in smiles and everyone was as light hearted and joyous as it seems possible for a human being to be in this vale of tears.

For dress, show and ceremony, commend me to a haut ton ball of white people, but for downright, real fun and enjoyment, I'll take a half breed dance in the Nor'-west every time.

MEN OF THE DAY



THE HON. JAMES A. LOUGHEED, Q. C.

THE career of the above-named gentleman, the subject of our present sketch, has been a practical illustration of those well-known words, "Go west, young man." Born on September 1st, 1854, in Toronto, Mr. Lougheed has been steadily moving westward and to fortune. Only eight years ago he laid the stepping stone to his present large fortune by coming to the Northwest Territories. The previous year, '81, he commenced the practice of law in Toronto, on his own account. At the time of the Manitoba boom, he closed his office in that city and located in Winnipeg, remaining there until May, '83, when Westward Ho! was again the cry, and, in advance of the railway, he travelled to Medicine Hat, where he stayed until the railway reached the Elbow river, Calgary, at which time he came to our town, where he has since been, and means to stay. Until 1886, Mr. Lougheed practiced his profession alone, when Mr. P. McCarthy, Q. C., entered into partnership with him, the firm being enlarged two years later, when Mr. N. D. Beck entered it. Mr. Lougheed was appointed Queen's Counsel in the month of Novem-