

THE BOOM SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY.



EVER since its foundation, philosophy has been favored with a great variety of schools. Let a man, learned or unlearned, identify himself with a number of new doctrines however foolish in themselves; let him gather a few disciples who are willing to risk limb or life for the propagation of these novelties, and immediately a new school of philosophy is founded. The leaders of nearly all schools are ranked among the heroes who have vanquished ignorance; though to say the truth some of them have talked more nonsense than demented beings who never heard the name of philosophy. We attribute this fact to man's inconsistency; but we are at a loss to find a reason for the following novelty. Perhaps it is man's madness. Other philosophers, though they know *for certain* that such a school is teeming with errors, will give years of study to disprove what others hold as truth unsullied; proving thereby of what preposterous balderdash the human mind is capable at times.

Strange as it may seem, there can be no doubt, that many men become great philosophers at least in their own estimation without ever having the faintest idea of the matter treated by that venerable science. To this class belong the members of the Boom School of Philosophy. Lest our readers should confound it with several other famous schools we distinguish it from the Bomb School, embracing nearly all the pernicious errors of modern philosophy which have led to the free and extended use of dynamite, bombs, the dagger, and other socialistic and anarchistic weapons. We further draw a heavy line between the Boom School and the Bum School, which flourisheth in rank profusion in nearly all colleges, and which claims as its special adherents men who love cigarettes, and

hate anything or anybody that smacks of energy. And for the sake of greater clearness, we must distinguish it from a very modern school, holding sway in western towns, and having for its immediate object to boom up coal oil plantations and cactus mines.

The history of philosophy, as nearly all those who have studied it know, is a dense science. It requires such an overwhelming amount of twisting, backing up, and scrambling over the same territory, in order to screw out the origin of any school; such a prodigious number of jaw-breaking names connected with the members and branches of this school, that it is no wonder many students wished the business consigned to oblivion. No such difficulty hinders the historian of the Boom School. Its rise and progress are within the memory of men whose whiskers are not even gray. The illustrious founder as well as his associates still flourish. To begin at the beginning, we say that previous to 1870 not the slightest vestige of this school was to be found. In that year the Improvement Company on the Upper Ottawa determined to establish a boom in order to avoid a certain rapids about one hundred miles above the capital of the Dominion. A small wooden shanty was built; and the supervision of the boom was entrusted to three notable personages, viz.: Tom Knott a middle-aged North of Ireland man with just learning enough to be dangerous; Demas Violet, a Frenchman who had found his former name of Lavolette too long, and anglicized it into the present form, at the earnest solicitation of foreman Knott. The other worthy was called Jim, or Old Jim, for he had rafted the earlier part of his life on the Upper Ottawa; and being offered this lucrative position had, in his old age, gladly accepted. The work imposed upon the boom gang was not arduous; the big steamer with its tow, came to the head of the rapids on an average once in twenty-four hours. Hence there was