

(Specially drawn for Grip.)



“SHE KNEW.”

*Lady (from Hamilton).*—Is that chicken by the gate a Brahmin?

*Farmer.*—No, he's a leghorn.

*Lady (from H.)*—Why, to be sure, how stupid of me! I can see the horns on his ankles!



THE CHRONICLES OF THE COMBINE.

IN the year of the feast of the bissexile, wherein, by ancient custom and tradition of our forefathers, the woman may, without loss of honor or respect unto herself, propose unto, and covenant to take unto herself, to love, cherish, and support the elusive male:

In the same year the chief rulers of the people did make unto the nation an appeal concerning the laws of tithe and custom, which they had aforesaid caused to be levied upon certain merchandise, being brought from other countries; upon the juice of the grape, and fine linen; and frankincense; and the sap of the sugar cane.

And there abode in the city of the Mount Royal certain men, who, by refining the sap of the cane, and adding thereto glucose and divers other compounds, did convert the same into yellows, and granulate, whereby the people were enabled to give a pleasant flavor to their flagons of tea, and of coffee, and of toddy; yea, tradition sayeth even unto the lemonade at the feast of the tabernacles. And they were passing rich.

Wherefore, when certain leaders of a portion of the Council, who were evilly disposed into tithes, and customs, whereby the yellows, and granulates of other countries, even unto the land of the covenant, were forbidden the ports of the nation, spake against the enactment, then did the chief officer of the refinery, named Georgious, a man of mighty valor, girt his loins about, and, on high places, did utter bitter and grievous words

against these evilly disposed persons; and unto the laborers in the market places, wherein his voice was heard, did thus hold forth:—

Know ye, oh people, lo, these nine years have we heaped up shekels, by reason of the tithe; and have given ye employment at great wages; and have attained a cheap market where ye may obtain yellows and granulate for your flagons of tea, and of coffee, and of toddy, and for your lemonade at the feasts of your tabernacles.

Now, hearken and consider, for peradventure the wiles of these evilly-disposed persons shall prevail, and the great Johannes be driven from his seat; then shall we close the doors of our refinery, and the smoke of its furnace shall no more darken the sky; and ye shall go forth into exile, ye and your wives, and your little ones.

And the people cried with a loud voice: “Let Johannes the Great reign.” And it was so.

And there abode in that city certain merchants who sold unto dealers, living in the regions of the Ottawa and Gananoque, and other remote places scattered throughout the land, even unto the borders of the great lakes, the yellows and granulates, which were refined by Georgious and his workmen.

And there were certain other merchants, who retailed their wares to the inhabitants of the city only; and who also to them retailed yellows and granulate, for values just as much as they could obtain, and no more.

Then did Georgious issue unto these merchants a manifest signed by his own name, setting forth certain wily reasons for the which they should combine together with him, and make their own prices for the yellows and granulates, saying: Lo! the St. Lawrence refinery has been consumed by fire; and the Halifax!! is it not in our own hands?

Wherefore, men and brethren, bind ye together, and unto us, that we may show the people of this land our power, and may make unto ourselves shekels of gold and shekels of silver. And the merchants said, Amen!

For the people, even the electors, had listened unto his words in the market places, and had set their marks opposite the names of those who were chosen to support Johannes the Great.

And certain young men, being ready writers, sat them down and indited on parchment the rules and laws of the guild, and the same were carried forth by servants of guileful tongue unto the traders scattered throughout the land, and many, for the love of lucre, did sign it and bind themselves to carry out the laws and enactments of the combine.

So the merchants in the city of Mount Royal, and throughout the land, became tributaries unto Georgious, and could not so much as call their souls their own, but were subject unto his will, and did buy at whatever seemed unto him good, and did sell at whatever prices were determined beforehand by the rulers and teachers of the combine and considered themselves made up forever.

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