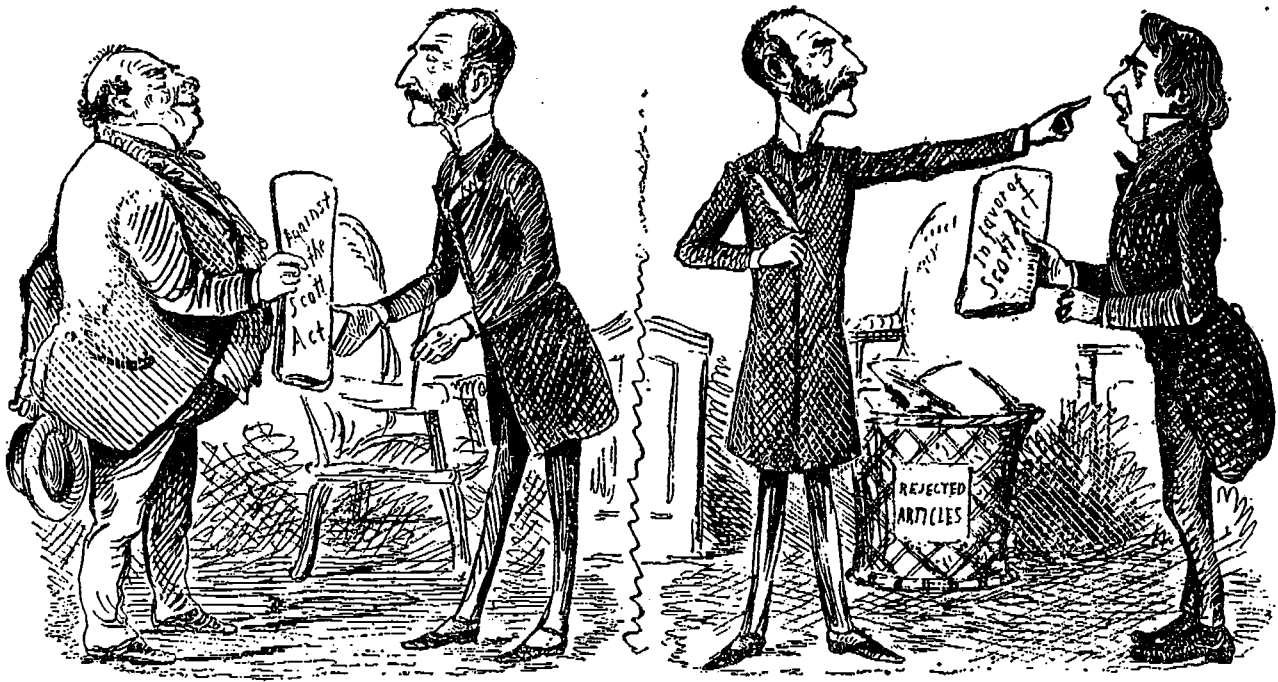


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THE INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST.
 RECEPTION OF AN ANTI-SCOTT ACT CONTRIBUTOR. RECEPTION OF A SCOTT ACT DITTO.

Still they come! I have just come across this paragraph in a daily paper:—
 "A comet has been discovered in Vienna, which is visible in North America."

Despite the charming vagueness as to whether the comet or Vienna is visible in North America, I have sufficient knowledge of geography and news summarizers to grasp the meaning intended to be conveyed, and single out the comet for discussion. No dissertation on comets would be complete and worthy of a place in history unless it included the observation that "thereby hangs a tail." There is a tradition to the effect that one philosopher tried to substitute the quotation, "I could a tail unfold," and was next day driven out of his native town by a committee of indignant ladies who thought it was an insidious attempt to ridicule their economical practice of constructing panniers out of old newspapers. The essay in question has found no place in the annals of this glorious country, and the author himself is yet an alien and a paragraph. It is a mystery to me how all these years, while so many comparatively undeserving persons have been finding comets, I should have been unable to discover one. It is true I, in common with other misguided men, in my younger days have stayed out late nights watching comets, or rather helping designing young females to watch them. But I have

never yet "caught onto"—if the phrase is allowable—one exclusively. If I ever do find a comet, I shall wait a reasonable time to see whether any one advertises for it. No one claiming my comet, I shall endeavour to get close enough to knock it down with a club, after which I shall have it stuffed and presented to the zoo.

It is satisfactory to know from Secretary Folger that the United States Treasury is in a healthy condition. There ought to be one sound financial quarter in the United States, anyway, if for nothing else than the look of the thing.

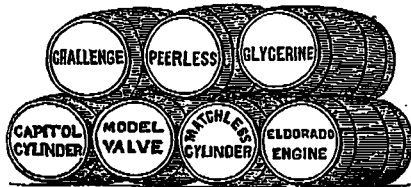
The London *Free Press* still keeps Wicked Weeks' Magistrate. The editor still believes that it only requires time and patience to convince people that that's what's the matter with Hannah.

At the semi-annual examination for admission to the Royal Military College only two martial spirits presented themselves. Seeking the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth isn't on the line of the young Canadian. He would prefer to seek a job in the civil service and let the reputation go.

There is much in this world to jar the finely attuned sensibilities of the editor of the *Mail*. People, as a rule, are not half learned enough to come up to his standard of thorough culture. For instance, he objects to Logan's candidature for the reason that that eminent statesman and sinner does not speak good grammar; he rises with a sigh from *Globe* Independence argument because the spelling is abominable, and he is utterly prostrated with grief because more elegant composition does not characterize secession articles in the North-West reform press. These afflictions are telling on the poor man. He had better try Boston, or get a partnership with dear Oscar in the poetry business.

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