

County of Kalafat in Parliament, with a fair prospect of success. I have had some difficulty in coming to a full and satisfactory understanding with the "Free and independent;" but by attending several public meetings, I have had such intercourse with the leading men of the County as will secure my election, unless, indeed, the voting should be more adverse than could be desired. You will understand that there may be some variance between the apparent prospects of a candidate before the election and the final result of the polling, when you are informed that those preliminary meetings are composed—first, of a few enterprising men who (whatever their neighbours may think on the subject) know themselves to be the most intelligent and influential part of the community, and who feel it to be their vocation to lead and direct the minds of the more ignorant masses; and secondly, of the very few who are content to be thus led and directed by such leading men. Unfortunately many of both these classes are not allowed to vote at all; but they devote their time and talents to the cause of politics, with a zeal and energy truly praiseworthy, while the great mass of actual voters, who, for electioneering purposes, we call the "bone and sinew" of the country, generally remain at home and regard our meetings with a stolid indifference which is very provoking. And when they come to the polls, they are very apt to give their votes in the most ungainly manner, perfectly regardless of the programme previously laid down for them there by the leading and led men at public meetings. A knowledge of these circumstances has induced me not to place too much confidence in my present prospect of success, but to abide the issue of the actual voting before I consider my election sure. Nevertheless, these meetings have much more weight in influencing elections than could be supposed, from a knowledge of the materials of which they are composed.

For your edification, I herewith send you a slight sketch of the proceedings of such a meeting, which I lately attended:

Benjamin Bunkum, Esquire, was unanimously called to the chair, and Mister Gregory Goose Quill appointed secretary. We are careful on those occasions to maintain a proper distinction of rank—the chairman must be an Esquire, and the Secretary simply Mister. The chairman opened the meeting by expressing his inability to express his unqualified satisfaction at meeting such a respectable assembly on this important occasion. If the meeting was not large it was certainly highly respectable. "Gentlemen," said the worthy chairman, "when I look around me—hem—when I look around me, gentlemen, and see—hem—I say, when I look around me, I am—hem—I am— This, gentlemen, is a most important period of our—hem—in our—hem—history. And I, that is I—we are met here to day to nominate a fit and proper person to represent this noble county in Parliament. And at a time when the duties devolving upon Parliament are of more importance

than at any time since the memorable Parliament at Runimede. Look at the momentous questions to which Parliament will be speedily called to give its attention. There is the Grand Turk and the Grand Trunk Railway! "here is the Emperor of Russia and the Emperor of this here Canada! besides many minor subjects of less importance. Then there is the great eastern war, which is a host in itself. There is Admiral Dundas, who cannot destroy the Russian fortifications without injuring property; and there is Admiral Napier, who cannot thrash the Russians because they have the "bad taste" to keep out of his way; and there is the allied armies sitting on the fence while the Turks are thrashing the Russians at Silistria! And there is—hem— Then there is the Clergy Reserves, which must be attended to as usual. And the Seigneurial Tenure, which is of the utmost importance to the country in general, and to this county in particular. But above all and before all is the Three Rivers Cathedral bill, and it is my determination to vote for no man who does not pledge himself to the nines on the Three Rivers Cathedral bill. (Hear, hear.)

"Now, gentlemen, where will we find a man fit to grapple with all those important questions!" I involuntarily cried out "here, here." The chairman, not distinguishing the adverb from the verb, proceeded, "I have myself been solicited by many influential men of the county to allow myself to be put in nomination, but I cannot consent to devote my valuable time to Parliamentary affairs, unless no other proper person can be found, that is, unless I am forced to it. (Hear, hear.) At this juncture a friend of mine, whom I had brought with me for the purpose, rose, and proposed that Harold Skimpole, Esq., is a fit and proper person to represent this county in Parliament."

This proposition was received with some slight cheers and some half-suppressed exclamations of "Who?" "Skim what?" "What pole?" I immediately rose to my feet, determined to introduce myself to the company, many of whom were evidently strangers even to my name. The chairman looked dissatisfied. Things had taken a wrong direction. I paid no attention, however, to his displeasure, but proceeded to keep the ball a-rolling.

I had previously racked my brain to originate some rich promises of deeds to be for the free and independent electors, in case they should so far consult their own interest as to elect me, but without much success, until that day on my journey to the place of meeting I was furnished with what I considered a capital subject for my purpose. In going to the place of meeting we had to pass over several miles of what was called a plank road, which consisted of a succession of mud holes, with broken fragments of plank and scantling projecting out of the mud at various angles of elevation, and others laying loosely across the track in all imaginable positions. I wish you could have seen the structure. It struck me very forcibly that this road was susceptible of improvement, and I consi-