

"There is a pleasure in being mad which none but madmen know."—Dryden.

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When due time, we may expect our theatres to be, in interest, as much superior to what we have to-day, as are those of to-day superior to the court-yard boxes of the fifteenth century. Our stage is improving by leaps and bounds. It needs to make but three steps more to reach perfection. Formerly, the public was obliged to be satisfied with the performances of mere mountebanks—the scum of humanity. Later, members of the commonality whose reputations had become somewhat soiled by careless use, contributed to our amusement. Near the close of the last century, knighthood bore grease-paint in

the glare of the foot-lights. To-day, an earl—a real, live earl—chews scenery for two hours for twenty-five cents. Is not this a triumph for the stage? Rather! It matters not that the Earl of Rosslyn, who is now touring Canada and the United States with his own company, cannot act; think of the example that he sets. From a mere Knight to an Earl is a mighty step. The most difficult bridge is crossed. For the Duke of Deadbrokeski to follow the noble Earl's example will be comparatively easy. And after the Duke will come the King. And after the King, the Emperor. And they will all use their real names on the bill-boards—the Earl uses his. This is a masterly display of taste. Will it not be a rare treat to read, in glaring bill-board letters: "HIS MAJESTY, KING ALFONSO, and his own Company, in FROU-FROU. First appearance in America. One week only!" May we not hope to see also: "Special Attraction, Shaw's Theatre. THE ORIGINAL EMPEROR BILL, in his World-Famous Monologue, 'ME AND GOTT'!" These announcements may seem odd to us to-day—but to-morrow—?" We shall see. The frivolous are ever ready to ridicule what they have not experienced. We repeat: "We shall see" The uselessness of titles is not yet conclusively demonstrated. True, they no longer serve the purpose for which they were invented; but no one can deny their almost unlimited possibilities in the line of advertising.

AFTER eight months of hard work, the Dominion Government, on Thursday, entered on its two or three months of well-earned recreation.

In former times the work of Government was performed, to a great extent, during the sessions of the House. Now-a-days, all that is changed. In our time the Cabinet conducts the affairs of the country—disposes of its property, rights and bank account, during the active inter-sessional periods; it meets the House only for the purpose of comparing notes and receiving congratulations. Real representative government has, in the course of time, been found to be clumsy and inconvenient; in England it has furnished opportunity for obstruction by the Opposition. In Canada we have profited by the example of the Mother Country, and so have adopted the modern method of absolute government administered by the Cabinet.

The advantages of this system are almost innumerable, the chief advantage, however, being the solidifying effect that it has on the body of gentlemen that sits at the right hand of the Speaker. In former days, when the whole House discussed the rights and wrongs of a measure, the adoption of which had not been definitely decided, the weaker members among the Government supporters were often turned from unquestioning conformity with their leader's views by the oily tongues of a wily Opposition, and often also by their inability to reconcile the various arguments of the leading men of their own side. Under the new system, such annoyances are easily avoided. The Cabinet does everything in the inter-sessional times; when the House meets, the Government leader merely announces what has been done, and informs his supporters how they must vote. The matter is settled; there is no object in debating it; the ordinary members are not there to express opinions; they are there to vote—and this fact is vigorously impressed on them at the party caucus.

Altogether, the system is an admirable one—"For the general advantage of Canada."

MR. FOSTER'S defeat in North Ontario, on Wednesday last, came as a surprise to those persons not intimately acquainted with the people of that constituency. The Man in THE MOON, had, at one time, so high an opinion of their intelligence, that he ventured to predict that Mr. Foster's election was beyond doubt. The result of the election proves how dangerous it is to guess the standard of persons amongst whom you have not lived. That North Ontario is not Grit, has been amply demonstrated. Why is it, then, that the Tory candidate is defeated? Merely because he was not the kind of man the constituency wanted. He did not come down to the electors' ideal. Mr. Foster's ability is unquestioned. It would be absurd to take his defeat as a reflection on that ability. Can it be a reflection on his party? Scarcely, since their late member belonged to that party. The natural conclusion, then, is that mediocrity is more to the taste of the electors than is well-tried ability of the highest type.