

## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"I don't know how the elections will go," said Brown, "but there's one thing certain, and that is that if the Liberals are defeated it will not be through the fault of any one of our boarders. Why, even old Sinnett, who has voted the Conservative ticket since the year one, was actually out working for Guern."

"If we had only had a few weeks longer," said Phil, "to thoroughly discuss the question, the Conservative party would have been wiped clean out of existence. In spite of all the mean and disreputable tactics of our opponents; in spite of tremendous pressure on the part of manufacturers to dragoon their men into line; in spite of a sycophantic press, you will find, when all the returns are in, that either the Liberals have captured the country or else came very near doing so. It was clearly a fight of the classes against the masses; the interests of capital on the one hand, and the prosperity and wellbeing of the laborer on the other. The farmers realized the importance of this election, and you will find that the agricultural districts stood solid by Laurier. In our large manufacturing centres, however, I am afraid that the workingman has been led astray, either by the threats of his employer or else by the many side issues dragged into the fight by our opponents."

"It is a most significant fact," said Sharkey, "that each and everywhere Liberals of all classes were eager to discuss in private, and on the public platform the questions of reciprocity and protection, and it is equally true that our opponents dare not deal with this question on its merits; they confined themselves, as they always do, to appealing to the sympathies and prejudices of the people rather than to their common sense. No disinterested and honest man can deny that the N. P. is a cunningly devised scheme to enrich a favored few at the expense of the many, and for this reason manufacturers and capitalists generally did their utmost to perpetuate it. The schoolmaster, however, is abroad, and if our efforts should in this instance not prove successful, this election will still be the lever which will secure a free trade victory in the future, just as the Cleveland campaign was necessary to the success of the free traders last fall. I am satisfied that it will be productive of good; it has set people thinking, and if free traders are wise they will keep this discussion alive. I believe, with Phil, that if time were given to place this question of unrestricted reciprocity fairly and squarely before the people it would be carried by an overwhelming majority."

"The sudden and outrageous manner in which the elections were sprung on the people," said Brown, "shows that the Government did not want to have the question fairly discussed; as a matter of fact discussion was actually choked off, by raising issues altogether foreign to the question on which the Government came to the country, and one-half of the supporters of the Conservative party actually don't know what the row is all about; they are told by their bosses how to vote and that settles it."

"Now that the excitement of the elections is over," said Brown, "the boiler explosion at Quebec, which caused the loss of many valuable lives, will probably receive the attention which the gravity of the case demands. The Factory Act does not provide for the regular inspection of boilers by competent men; it is a matter which is seemingly left to the discretion of the Factory Inspectors. What is wanted is either a separate act or else a clause added to the Factory Act, providing for the proper inspection of boilers at regular intervals by practical

and competent men who would either make their reports to the Factory Inspector of their district or else to the Government direct. A law should also be enacted that no man be allowed to have charge of any kind of stationary or portable engine who does not hold a certificate of competency. I do really believe that had the Conservative Government adopted the act introduced by Mr. Cook session before last at Ottawa, and which provided for the examination of every man in charge of a stationary engine, the accident would not have occurred. For the deplorable loss of life by this accident Sir John and his party, who refused to enact this law, are personally and collectively responsible.

BILL BLADEN.

UNHOLY ARROGANT MINORITY  
AGAINST SUBMISSIVE MAJORITY.

(Written for the Echo by Cyrille Horslet.)

A wood cutter's axe started out to procure food for his family, but had not proceeded far when he met a Gatling gun in his path, who asked where he was going. To earn food in this forest, the axe replied. My dear fellow, said the Gatling gun, there are certain conditions you must bind yourself to first. You must work hard and be content with the chips. But my family are in need of food, retorted the axe. I will not be bullied; now, don't be unreasonable, said the Gatling gun, we ought to be good friends, and will be, if you will only be satisfied with what can be spared you. We don't grudge you the chips, Profit has placed me here to look after his rights, and if you will not agree to take what he can spare you, you can go and lie idle. In that case, said the axe, I must evidently cut something else.

During the strikes of working people against the slavish exactions of their employers, the contest goes on peaceably enough so long as the employers are getting the best of their workingmen; but just as soon as the strikers begin to gain their demands and are about to defeat their employers, the struggle assumes a warlike phase. The employers never tire of warning the strikers against using violence, but themselves never hesitate to employ violence in order to subdue the strikers when necessary or unnecessary. According to "law" there is no violence employed when the employers starve the workman into subjection, but it is "unlawful and disorderly" for the worker to resist this starvation process known as the lock-out, the discharge, etc. To resist these compulsory methods is what the law terms "violence," and the authorities are called upon by employers to suppress it. The police, the guardians of law and order, are set upon the unarmed people to quell the disturbance, the militia here and the Pinkerton thugs over the lines, being held as a reserve to reinforce them with bullets and bayonets when the cracking of heads with clubs is not effective enough. Workingmen are thus driven to the choice of submission, that is, starvation for their families, or cracked heads, broken bones and slaughter for themselves with the result of the horrid phantom of anarchism hanging over our head as a constant menace to humanity. Who are the real abettors of that fearful calamity? The worshipper of Mammon and their oligarchical tools that some blind people, in their stubbornness, persist to send to Parliament in order that they might forge some shackles for the wage-earners here and elsewhere.

An unusual interest at the present time attaches itself to some unpublished letters from the late General Sherman which appear in the March number of the North American Review. One written to General Garfield in August, 1870, as to the loyalty of General Thomas, is eminently characteristic of Sherman. Another letter describes the meeting of Grant and Sherman with President Lincoln on board the Ocean Queen at City Point near the end of the war. These letters will doubtless attract a large number of readers.

## GOLDWIN SMITH.

The following from Buffalo Truth is not very complimentary to the advocate of annexation:—

It may be profanity to say it, but it seems to us that in the reports of the Canadian election campaign we are getting a little too much of Prof. Goldwin Smith. This personage is a universal misfit. England was too small for him so he came to the United States, with the view of taking charge of things generally. Cornell University gave him a chair, and he held forth magisterially and pendantically until he found that the democratic air of the country did not suit him. He grew tired of us, but, goodness knows, not until we were tired to death of him. Then he went to Canada and began lecturing and printing at a great rate. He set himself up as the infallible censor of politics and literature. At first the Canadians, who are a people easily impressed by any fellow adopting "the grand bow-wow style," accepted Smith as a prophet, but when they grew to know him better they discovered that he was trading upon a very small and windy capital, much of it based on the fact of Disraeli having embalmed him in "Lothair" as "a social parasite." He was as proud of that distinction as a fellow-countryman of his who gave himself airs because he had once been kicked by George IV.

Mr. Smith has managed to get the ears of certain of the special correspondents of leading American papers and they have been exploiting him as though he were the actual head of the opposition to the Macdonald cabinet. The fact is he is a nobody, so far as the politics of our neighbors is concerned. It is much to be doubted if he sways a vote outside of his own; it is a question if he votes at all. He is too good and too wise in his own estimation to belong to any party; political perfection culminates in his self-sufficient conscience; the duty of going to the polls is one too mechanical and needless, it may be, to command his attention, seeing that the issue does not involve his being made the chief director of everything.

There is nothing on this earth good enough for Goldwin Smith. He is like that French king who used to say that had the Almighty consulted him regarding the creation of the universe, many absurdities would have been avoided. There will be no comfort for him in heaven, should he get there, for the moment St. Peter punches his ticket he will begin finding fault with the hang of the pearly gates and the style of golden paving and the manner in which the angels and archangels discharge their functions. Inside of a week the denizens of the regions of the blessed will be circulating a petition to have Smith translated to some star where, alone by himself, he may spend an eternity in the contemplation of his own limitless perfection.

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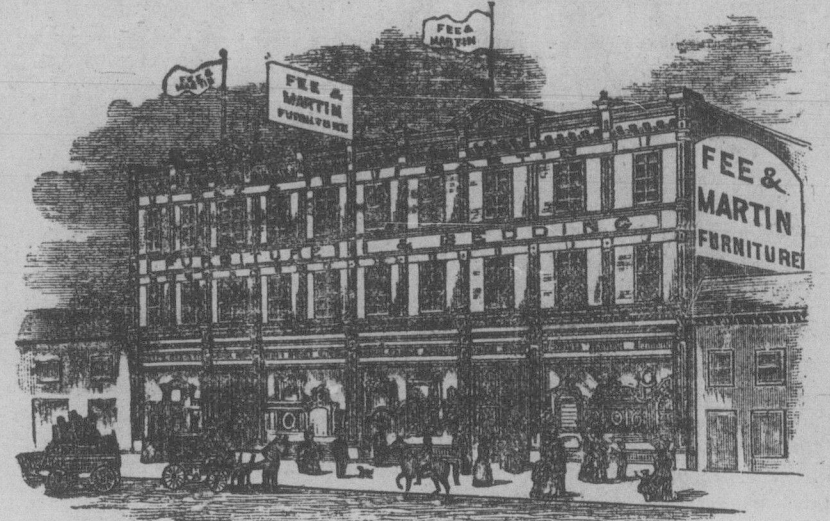
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