

The lazy man sometimes follows a business—indeed he always follows it, for he never catches up, and he lags so far behind that the business gets out of sight entirely in a short time. The race becomes too one-sided to be very interesting.

I have heard it remarked that the lazy man is born tired, and perhaps he is sorry for that, too, and won't do it again. I believe in being charitable to brothers in distress, therefore, for your sake and his, I will stop the machine for the present, though it has been well wound up, and is capable of producing much more if it gets a chance.

POLONIUS.



A MONTREAL RELIC.

Tourists (from Toronto)—Have you any old relics in Montreal worth seeing?

Polite Official—Relics? It ees ze old, ancient tings you shall desire to see? *Eh bein!* Ve can show you ze first papaire serve in ze case of Dugas v. Sheppard!

THE REFORM LEADERSHIP.

THE leadership of the Reform Party having become vacant by the retirement of Hon. Edward Blake, the managers *pro tem.* are anxiously casting about for a permanent successor to that distinguished gentleman. We understand that the following correspondence has passed more or less within the last few days:—

(*Post Card.*)

HAWARDEN CASTLE.

GENTLEMEN,—I regret to say that important engagements here will make it impossible for me to assume the Liberal leadership in Canada. Salisbury, Churchill, and other friends have strongly urged me to accept, but I cannot see my way to it.

W. E. GLADSTONE.

(*Telegram.*)

BOSTON, MASS.

Cannot go at present. Am still keeping my eyes transversely on Presidency. Thanks for flattering offer.

B. F. BUTLER.

(*Typewriter Letter.*)

NEW YORK.

GENTLEMEN,—My business interests are so vast here that I cannot well get away, though I confess your offer is a tempting one. As you say, my long experience in making big deals would peculiarly fit me for the position, and it would also give me a chance to boost the Commercial Union idea. There are, however, insuperable obstacles in the way. What is to become of the Metropolitan Base

Ball Club and Staten Island Rapid Transit if I accept? I would also want a guarantee that I should not be called upon at any time to accept a knighthood. Yours, etc.

ERASTUS WIMAN.

TORONTO, June.

DEAR EDGAR,—My chances for the York shrievalty are so good that I hate to throw them up for such a shaky position. Why not take the leadership yourself? I will assist you all I can *ex officio*. Yours, etc.,

JOS. TAIT.

BUFFALO, June.

GENTLEMEN,—If you will get the 65th Regiment fellows calmed down, I don't mind returning to my native heath and tackling the job. If I don't make old John A. hump livelier than he has ever yet done, I will not ask a cent of salary. You can find my platform at the head of *News* editorial column. I'll stick to that every day of the week, and Toryism will be knocked out in the second round. What your leader wants is snap and go, and when you come to me you come to the right shop for it. Yours, etc.,

E. E. SHEPPARD.

QUEBEC.

RESPECTED SIR,—Being absent from home and having plenty of wealth at my command, with nothing to engage my attention, it has struck me that the leadership of your party would afford me the relaxation I am in need of. I will take it on condition that all party funds are entrusted to my care. Let me hear from you by return mail. Yours, etc.,

JOHN C. ENO,

late of N. Y.

(*Private and Confidential.*)

OTTAWA.

GENTLEMEN,—Having long been aware of latent powers of leadership locked up in my breast, I seize the opportunity presented by the retirement of your chief, to apply for the position. I think I could fill his shoes and find them a tight fit. He was an orator and a scholar; so am I. He was Irish; so am I. There are other striking moral and political resemblances, no doubt, if I only had time to look for them. 'Tis true I am at present a Conservative, but I could be a Radical with equal facility, being of an elastic disposition. If you do not avail yourselves of this offer please keep it quiet, as I think my chances are good for succeeding Sir John. Yours, etc.,

N. F. DAVIN.

FINANCIAL.

You wish to know why I should care for
The changes there may be
Made in the tariff, sir, and wherefore,
They should trouble me?

I once deposited a vest
With Levi Isaacstein,—
Three golden balls do hang at rest
Before his shop, for sign.

The interest I had to pay,
Ere he restored the vest,
Now, might not that be termed, I pray,
A vested interest?

W. J. H.

A MEDICAL OPINION.

AN eminent practitioner at the Capital says that Canada has been laboring under commercial anæmia and *Doctor Tupper* has administered an iron tonic.