



#### BULLET-PROOF.

"WIFE—" Good gracious, Henry, what have you got that waffle suspended from your neck for?"

HENRY—"Well, since Dowe's patent bullet-proof breast-plate has proved a failure, I'm going to let Jack have a crack at this. You needn't be alarmed; it's from the last batch you baked."

#### THE TIMES IN A TANTRUM.



STRONG language—violent and un-reasoning abuse—is something we do not usually look for in the columns of the *Monetary Times*. Profane swearing in the pulpit would scarcely seem more out of place, for the *Times* is a staid, elderly journal of the very highest respectability. And yet we find in a recent issue the following fish-wisely sentences: "Some forms of Socialism may command respect if not sympathy, but for Single Tax it is difficult to see how any right minded person can have any other feeling than that of loathing and contempt. The real object of the

Single Taxers, if no longer avowed, is the confiscation of one form of property, and that which in all countries is held in the highest respect. The confiscation of land, be it remembered, means the confiscation of all the mortgages founded upon it, which are not land, but personal properties."

This last sentence implies clearly enough that in the opinion of the *Times* writer land cannot rightfully be regarded as personal property, and this is really going further than the abhorrent Single Taxers go. They merely hold that land value—that is to say, the value which attaches to land by reason of the presence of the community—the speculative value, in other words—should not be treated as private property but should be taken in taxation, in lieu of all other taxes. They do not propose to confiscate land at all; under the Single Tax a land owner would be protected in his possession as sacredly as he is under the present system, and to the same extent; namely, as long as he paid his taxes. His taxes would be a sum equivalent to the annual rent of the land he held, minus all improvements. and meanwhile all other taxes direct and indirect would be abolished. The only person that such a system would injure would be the land speculator, and we submit that, being a mere parasite, he is not worthy of the tears of the *Monetary Times*. People who look to that journal for "calm-reasoned thoughts," may well be astonished at this

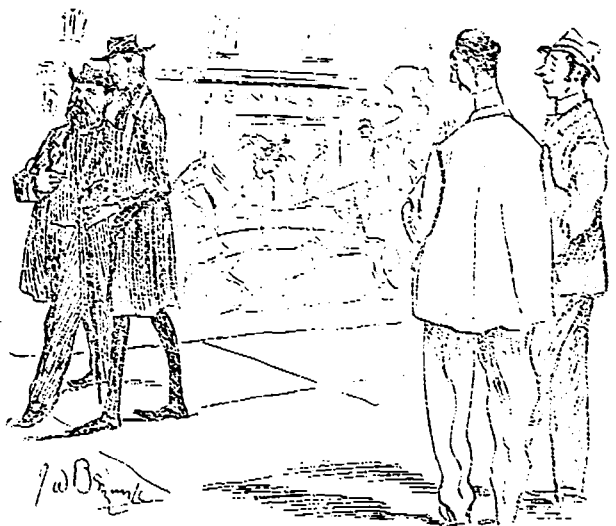
outbreak of passion, and we must add, ignorance. It is quite evident that the *Times* man has never taken the trouble to read up his subject.

#### THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK.

THE proverbial difficulty of finding a needle in a haystack is being experienced by the people of the Northwest in their efforts to discover from the eloquent addresses lately delivered to them by Mr. Laurier, what that gentleman's tariff policy precisely is. It is universally admitted that the haystack of words is in itself a great work of oratorical art—beautiful and symmetrical, but they reckoned on its containing a definite business statement bearing on the hard facts of the moment. The key note of all Mr. Laurier's speeches was Freedom—as he expanded it, freedom of trade, freedom of thought, freedom of opinion, and upon this attractive theme he waxed eloquent day after day. And there is nothing the North West people want more than freedom. They would like something more explicit however, as to freedom of trade. How free is trade to be made in the event of a Liberal government coming into office? What particular articles are to be put upon the free list by the new finance minister, and how does that suppositious gentleman propose to meet the probable deficit in public revenue? Does Mr. Laurier favor direct taxation, and if so, what does he propose to tax—incomes, or land values, or both? There is a complaint voiced by the Western press that these desirable particulars are hard to find in the mass of brilliant addresses just delivered; and in so far as this complaint is well founded it may be said that Mr. Laurier's golden opportunity was lost. Perhaps, however, like the general run of statesmen, he has great faith in "glittering generalities."

If Mr. Kleiser makes a success of his new impersonation line of business, his Copperfield may turn out to be a silver and gold field.

In a paper read before the Teachers' Convention at Montreal, Mr. J. P. Steven claimed that elocution "tended greatly to produce naturalness and individuality." Either Mr. Stephen is wrong about this, or it cannot be elocution that our young lady friends study at the numerous schools and conservatories devoted to this alleged art.



#### A HARD HIT.

FITZDUDESON—"I wondah why it is that eminent clergymen always weah soft hats?"  
COSTICK—"By way of contrast to their heads. For the same reason that you always wear a hard one."