

SKETCHES OF CHARACTER.—No. 2.

THE POLICEMAN.

A policeman is one who, being paid to preserve the peace, invariably is the first to break it. He is sometimes, in derision, called a civil officer, while incivility is his great characteristic. Having knocked an unoffending passenger down, he orders him to move on. He is in league with all disorderly houses who see him liberally; and accepts bribes indiscriminately from all classes; though preferring the five-dollars of some notorious offender, he does not disdain the penny of the peripatetic prig. Being of the force he is a man in power. He is insulting to the weak and defenceless, valorous amidst little boys, despotic over old women, and woe betide the houseless wanderer who comes across his path. His remonstrances are blows while with him the best argument is his truncheon. He is a superior illustration of the humanity of a Canadian, an honor to the civilised country in which he is allowed to exist; and a specimen of what unobtrusive merit, petty power, and a short-cudgel can effect, when well organized. The Certificates of his meritorious and truly christian services are found in the very properly broken heads of the scoundrel householders, by whom he is paid, who refuse to do his bidding. Without his praiseworthy and persevering efforts, the contusion ward of the hospital would be tenantless; and the rising generation of Surgeons would be ignorant of the noble art of trepanning. To his credit be it spoken, he gives his valuable services to his country, and dispenses blows and benefits for a paltry stipend paid when the corporation have the necessary funds.

THE CALL BOY.

The call boy is one of the many flowers born to blush unseen in the illuminated and fairy gardens, behind the scenes of a Theatre. Mr. Tomkins as Richard the Third, would cut a sorry figure, and very little mutton, did not the voice of the Call Boy summon him from the cheerful discussion of a friendly glass of Brandy-and-water, in the sanctum of his dressing-room, to the desperate mimic deeds of blood and death on the canvass board foot, and wing light illuminated representation of Bosworth Field. "King Richard! Catesby! Buckingham, Richmond, and Stanley!" shouted at the top of the Call Boy's voice, knocks up a game of Cribbage between two of the adverse faction, and disturbs the demolition of "the high-reaching Buckingham's" twelve oysters, and a pint of half and half. The Call Boy's power commences with the "Ten minutes, Ladies and Gentlemen," previous to the performance of the overture. His next word of command is, "Overture is on" and lastly, "Every body down to begin" addressed to those first on his list; and lastly "Curtain's up," shouted for the information of all concerned in the play. His business is not only to inform the actors when their "scene is on" but also to supply them with their "properties."

The following may be taken as a fair specimen of his usual address! King Richard, called twice, Sir. Truncheon and blank sheet of paper, and ring for Lady Anne, Lady Anne to return it after she is dead. Lord Stanley ready. P. S. with letter for Richmond. Othello, caudle and dagger. Pillow on bed. Desdemona will thank you, Sir, not to stab hard, as the dagger's rather sharp, and Juliet lost the spring one in Capulets Monument. Macbeth. Property, rose pink and sponge for blood.—Please keep handles clean. 1st Entrance, O. P. 1st Entrance P. S. Looking glass, lump of Chalk and Towel. Please be quick, Sir, 'cos Macduff has been dining out and swears he'll "only knock twice."

Such are the instructions and offices given and performed by a Call Boy, a kind of Dramatic lynch-pin—exceedingly useful, and absolutely necessary to keep the whole working machinery together, but, like that, little thought of, till out of place; and then trifling as it appeared, an upset is the consequence.

SINGULAR DELUSION.

Mr. Workman, commenced a speech the other night, at an annexation meeting with the following words; "Gentlemen, I have a great mind—"

FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

In Notre Dame Street, we observe that second-hand coats are considerably more worn than new ones. Indeed last years fashions seems to prevail; and although Chesterfields, Waterfords, Alberts and Taglionis, have had their day, Black-guards are to be seen as frequently as ever in all societies. Trousers of last years cut, and don't-come-again to the same tailor's, are still in vogue with those who have no change, the late dirty weather gives them a splashy appearance. We saw a gentleman in pumps on an improved principle, which received and exhausted the water with the same action. Generally speaking, garments after the prevailing modes are very much behind.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The late winds have been remarkably high, all of them reaching to the weather-cocks on the Church steeples, and most of them to the towers of Notre-Dame. We cannot state from what quarter the blow has come, as two great authorities are at variance, the game cock on the Nunnery being due North; while the fish on Christ-church sticks to the South. We have referred to a little man with a gun, on a pole in our back garden, but can obtain nothing satisfactory, as he appears to be waltzing to his favorite air, and keeps perpetually turning round. The prevailing fogs on the River have transferred the freight on the boats to the old fog-gys the passengers many of whom were frightened greatly: which had a favorable effect on their morals as from bad christians they became good quakers.

TRADE REPORT.

There has been a considerable demand for sugar in the nurseries of the Home departments. After some demur, the demand was satisfied by giving out sugar-sticks which served for immediate consumption.

Bricks are steady in the hands of the holders. Some descriptions are looking up considerably and have risen as high as five stories. The stories told by annexationists have caused annexation to rise even higher. Chimney pots went off rapidly on Wednesday last, and are said to have decreased in value, in consequence.

Oats are seen in small quantities in the neighbourhood of some of the livery stables; and a great deal has been done in chaff, of which a considerable quantity has been consigned to Punch, and directed to Toronto, where it will be shortly sold off.

STRAY SPARKS.

Do you draw? Not exactly; but I've a blister that does.
Why do bakers require all they earn?
Because they knead (need) all they make.
Why is a clergyman better off than other men?
Because he always has a surplice (surplus).

EASY STEPS.

Humbag is an easy step for the "Seat of Government." Annexation is an easy step to Taxation. Issuing Debentures is an easy step to repudiation. Stealing a pocket handkerchief is an easy step to Mr. McGinn's. A suit at law is an easy step to ruin. Articling your Son to an advocate is an easy step to the devil.—Tandem driving is an easy step to insolvency. Keeping hounds is an easy step to the dogs, and three bottles of Milk Punch are an easy step to as uneasy a (door) step, as any Gentleman would wish to avoid lying on.

'TIS TIME FOR ANNEXATION.

The Times are so hard in the vicinity of Quebec that the butchers only kill half a pig at a time.