



FASHION REVERSED.

SCOTTIE ON RIDER HAGGARD.

DEAR MAISTER GRIP,—I've just been readin' "Mr. Meeson's Will," an' mair than ever am I convinced that the author's chief motive in writin' sic books is tae mak' a' his readers as haggard as himsel. 'Deed, the mair I think o't the mair I think that an imagination like that is no safe tae let rin at lairge. Wha kens but his next move may be tae rax ower intae space, an' wi a pair o' leeterary shears cut this auld world clear o' the tether o' gravitation, an' set her off on a toor among the ither planets tae see gin they work things ony better there, than they do in the publishin' departments here.

I canna but say, hooever, that an auld fish bane an' cuttle fish ink, in connection wi' a human back in the way o' paurchment, is a grand idea, an' capable o' bein' put intae baith useful an' reformatory practice. An' I wad hae Paurliament tae mak it legal tae scart wi' an auld fish bane an' cuttle fish gall the shouthers o' certain offenders, viz.:—

1st. On the bare backs o' the villians wha insert advertisements tae trap the hard-up and the unwary. I wad inscribe gude an' deep the hale advertisement in big capitals; wi' the advertisers charge therefor wi' the day an' date an' any current comment the public may hae floatin' anent the matter.

2nd. On the villainous pelts o' the writers o' letters makin' appointments wi' silly an' unsophisticated lassies, wi' the deliberate an' cauld-bluided purpose o' ruinin' them. These I wad score weel in, an' saut them.

3rd. On the cuticle o' the back-biter, the tale-bearer, an' the slanderer, I wad scart an' tattoo a' the stories retailed tae the injury o' a neebor, takin' gude care to add a' the marginal notes, an' insinuations; an' whaur the exclamation points should come in, I wad indicate wi' an extra gude prod. By the time the hale sarface o' the body was covered, the balance o' the slanderers an' lees I wad carry ower tae the hide o' the person that aided an' abetted him, or her, in the diabolical work, by listenin' to him or her.

4th. I wad also mak it a condition that pairties wha live in the hoap o' ha'in' their virtues inscribed on their tombstones should hae the draft o't sketched oot on their shouthers while they're in life and copies o' the same dis-

tributed amang a' their employees an' whoever may hae business connections wi' them.

Finally, for the protection o' editors I wad hae the fish bane an' cuttle fish gall test insisted on as the first initiatory step in literature—and a notice to that effect pasted on the outside o' the sanctum doors, for the correction an' instruction o' amatoors an' spring poets.

This is what I wad ca' the deterrent and reformatory—or Haggard process for minimizin' the aforementioned offences against public morals, private character, an' gude taste, an' any suggestions as tae the pitten o't intae force will be thankfully received by yours truly, HUGH AIRLIE.

A POINTER FOR APPLICANTS TO GOVERNMENT.



FARMER—"Sir John, I want you to raise the duty on lithographic stone. I have got a quarry of it on my farm, and if you will exclude the foreign article and give me a chance to sell it at my own prices, I can make a pile of boodle out of it."

SIR JOHN—"Sir, would you insult me by asking my assistance in a barefaced scheme of robbery for your personal benefit? Get right out!"



FARMER—"I beg pardon; I didn't mean no harm. What I meant to say was, I am anxious to develop the resources of this great country by opening a lithographic-stone quarry, and thus giving employment to Canadian labour. I am a Canada-for-the-Canadians man, and I go in for the National Policy which has made this Dominion great. In the interests of the country in general, and the working-men in particular, I ask for an increase in the duty on lithographic stone. I am for the old flag, and never fail to contribute to the funds of the Patriotic Party."

SIR JOHN—"Ah, that's different. It shall be done. Why didn't you say *that* at first?"