

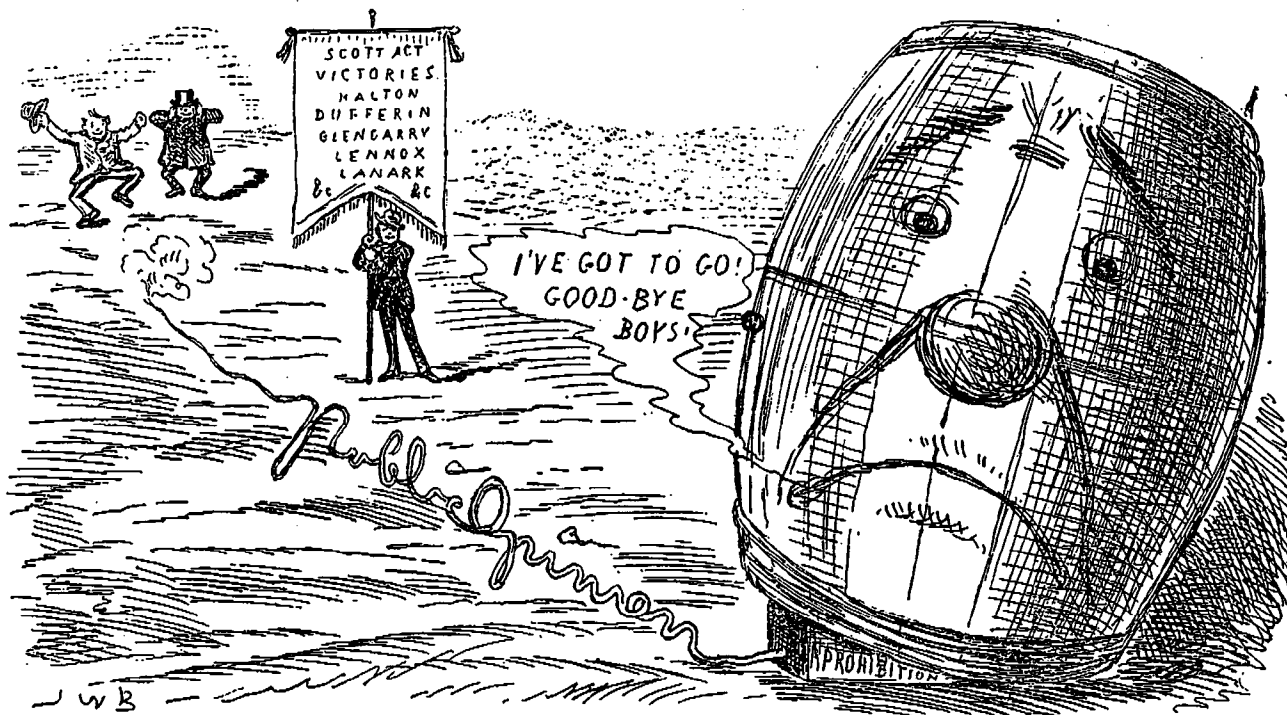
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WAITING FOR THE BLOW-UP.

he redeemed himself farther on. He explained that the burglars, when their presence was discovered by the head of the house, "were not overhauled until they had gained the yard, when Mr. — fired several shots at the retreating figures, but without effect!" Overhauling the burglars and firing at the retreating figures, is an idea that would never have occurred to the young man himself. The detectives must have inspired it. But yet he deserves credit for availing himself so promptly of it.

ONE of the papers I take — But, stay! Before going on let me say I never stop my subscription to a paper when the publisher sends it to me for nothing. Another of my peculiarities is to patronize the railway that gives me a free pass. But, as I was saying when you interrogated me, one of the papers I take has a long article on "The Throwing of the Shoe." It goes on to describe how lucky it is to have old shoes thrown after you when you are getting married or going into any other risky speculation when wages are not so much an object as a comfortable home. It does not, of course, particularize, and tell you that in St. Catharines the custom has fallen into disuse, owing to the difficulty of heaving the average shoe of that city any distance without a derrick. It alludes to the old shoe in the abstract. And this suggests the abstract in the old shoe—that is to say, the

power in the old shoe, properly manned, or rather old manned, to abstract hasty locomotion, not to mention hasty language, from the young man who will not accept ordinary intimation that he isn't considered an eligible suitor.

THE argus-eyed man-about-the-streets of the World comes forward to say:—"It is just something astonishing to see the number of business men, clerks, lawyers, workingmen, boys, reporters and beggars that 'lunch down town' now in this city." The most striking feature of this paragraph is the names. The names, you will observe, are given in the order of merit. That is what makes the clerks—bank clerks are meant—come next to the business men in social importance. Workingmen naturally come after the lawyers, many of whom are not workingmen because the profession is overcrowded. Of course, this is altogether a different thing from the lawyers going after the workingman—when they want to get into Parliament. "The boys" and reporters are naturally together (the parenthesis should have been employed here) and you will also, likely, detect the omission of the word "other" from before "beggars." I hope these little criticisms, which really do not detract from the beauty of the paragraph, will be taken in the spirit in which they are offered. But perhaps the World's man-about-the-street is not accustomed to taking anything in spirits.

THEY say Mark Twain is very nervous. He has constant difficulty in keeping still, and somebody is obliged to go with him to keep him busy playing billiards or doing something else, so that he will not have to be faced with the horrible alternative of sitting still. My impression of this peculiarity may not be a correct one, but I give it for what it is worth. When sitting still Mark's thoughts revert to John Ross Robertson.

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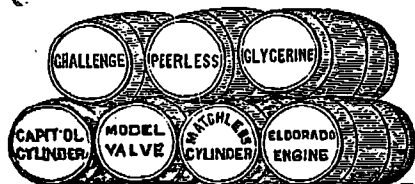
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