

The Jester.

A COMICAL AND SATIRICAL RECORD OF THE TIMES; ILLUSTRATED; WEEKLY

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HOW THE RETALIATORY POLICY WORKS.

The intelligent masses who assembled on Dominion Square on Saturday evening had the pleasure, or otherwise, of judging for themselves the magnificently successful working of the Retaliatory Policy initiated at Chaboillez Square two weeks ago. For three hours the "people" were in the throes of a great labor and during that time the minority made its influence not only heard, but felt by those who were struck with the force of the arguments used. It has always been claimed by the Conservative Party that the only popular measures effected by the MACKENZIE Administration were originally suggested by the late JOHN A. Government. Truly, one might say:—Great is the God of Party whom both sides worship when it suits them best! To use a common phrase the Retaliatory Policy on that occasion "worked like a charm," and the American guests who were staying at the "Windsor," and who witnessed the scene from its windows, must have been convinced with a terrible conviction that a Canadian Retaliatory Policy, under the superintendence of men who are professors in the business, is too fearful a thing to contemplate calmly, even from the American standpoint. But Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD who was neither responsible for the Chaboillez Square pandemonium nor for the Dominion Square exhibition of rowdyism, held out pluckily, and fought his arguments through with the pertinacity of a sexagenarian warrior—as he is. The good sense of the great majority, however, tolerated the rowdy obstructionists (who were comparatively harmless) with a generous toleration—and morally, at least, the victory was a great Conservative triumph. It is remarkable how far a half dollar will go among those who having no other stake in the Country, seek temporary employment in vainly endeavoring to destroy free speech. But let us change the subject.

A CHAPTER FROM THE CHRONICLES.

BY PAUL FORD.

Now in the fifth year of the reign of Alexander, the Grit, there were gathered together at Montreal on the seventh evening of the ninth month, people of divers languages and tongues. And they congregated together at the square called the Square of the Dominion. For the time of counting the people was at hand. And there were met the chiefs of the Tribe of John A. who were oppressed under the yoke of Alexander the Grit. For they cried for Protection with an exceeding bitter cry.

But certain soothsayers had resolved themselves into a Band, whereby to crush the tribe of John A. with a heavy hand. And among them were certain rulers of the people, and seeing that Alexander the Grit had dissatisfied those of the tribe of John A. they prevailed upon Stewart the Scribe, and Perry the Gatherer of stamps, to set at naught the supplications of John A. and his followers.

And behold the time for supplicating the people drew nigh. For they were assembled in tens, and in hundreds, and in thousands. Seeing therefore, that the tribe of John A. was increasing in strength, there came unto Stewart the Scribe, one McShane, who being himself a babler, said unto him: Behold we must defeat this man John A., and his people. Now, therefore, I pray thee, gather together the men of our own tribe, and divide them into parties, and place them among the tribe of John A., for we will not suffer John A. to overcome us. And Stewart the Scribe weighed the counsel of James the Less, a name whereby he was known among men, and found it good. So they gathered their men together and set over them Stephen the Quininite, and DeSalaberry the Gaul, and Mercier the gatherer of tithes. They made them captains of their bands, and placed them in authority over them.

Then Perry, an Elder among the people, took counsel with Stewart the Scribe, and said: Let us give our men instruments of wind, and they gave them horns of brass, of tin, and—of whiskey. And the spirit moved them to mischief.

When, therefore, they had gathered in battle array, Stephen the Quininite, a man of vigor, and comely withal, approached Stewart the Scribe and said: Give my people the wherewithal to sustain them. So Stewart the Scribe counted out a number of pieces of silver. And to others were given rotten eggs. And when they saw them they waxed strong. But they said never a word to the men of the tribe of John A., for their designs were secret. And they separated and placed themselves among the men of the tribes of John A. and no outward difference could be found among them.

CHAPTER II.

The appointed hour having come, the Chief John A. with his officers and captains of his host ascended the tribune in the Square of the

Dominion. Thereat had assembled several scribes to take down the words which fell from his lips, for they were counted as words of wisdom. And when John A. appeared among them there went up a mighty shout, and the people said: Long live John A. And John A. smiled and looked pleased.

Then proceeded he to unfold the iniquities of Alexander the Grit, and to tell them of the great wickednesses which he had committed. And the spies of Alexander the Grit grew wroth and made a great noise with horns of brass and of tin wherewith to drown the voice of John A.

But certain among the people went to seize them and to put them out. But the Chief would not suffer violence to any man. He said: Touch them not, for they do but sport with wind.

And he cried: See, it is only the Montreal Herald Brass Band. They are joined unto their idols, let them alone. And they let them alone. Then proceeded he to speak of the great injuries Alexander the Grit had wrought among the people; how that he had taxed the people with a sore tax, how that he had increased their burdens, and closed his ears against Protection.

And again a mightier shout went up from among them, and his tribe revolted from their burdens, and cried: We will not suffer this.

And great confusion reigned in the land, when one of the servants of Alexander the Grit threw an egg, which had been over-laid and of no great value, among the chiefs of John A. And it smote him below the left eye. But he borrowed a piece of linen from one of his own tribe and purified himself.

But the tumult moved not John A., for he gathered strength and his words were words of bitterness.

Then arose a struggle between the band of Alexander the Grit and the tribe of John A., and they fought violently with sticks and stones, but the mass of the people moved not, though the tumult continued. So Stephen the Quininite took counsel with Stewart the Scribe. And Stewart the Scribe said: Command thy servants to blow and to shout for we must overcome this man to-night. Verily his hosts attacked us but eight days since; why, therefore, should we not prevail against them? And his words were held as words of wisdom for he was in authority.

And they fell upon them and smote them hip and thigh.

The men of Alexander the Grit then shouted with an increased shout, but John A. spoke on.

And the eggs of fowls broke upon the ears of the captains of John A. and spread a smell around with a strong odour, but John A. restrained them from vengeance, although they suffered sorely. So the servants of Alexander the Grit waxed still more wroth, albeit they had been hired for the service. And they earned their wages honestly.

But at the tenth hour John A. had revealed to the people all the great wickedness of Alexander the Grit, the like of which could not be written in a book, and he made obeisance to his hosts, for he was anxious to depart from that place. And there departed with him his captains and counsellors to see him safely to the threshold of his inn which is named the "Windsor."

And Chapleau the Tory remained and spoke in his stead, and filled the hearts of the people with the eloquence of his words, altho' it was in a tongue that many understood not.

But at the eleventh hour the people grew wearied with staying. For the trumpets of tin of the Band of Alexander the Grit had become flattened, and the eggs had come to an end. When, therefore, they found there was no more whiskey to be had in the place, they said: What profiteth it us to tarry longer? Let us go home.

And they departed for their tents, and those of the tribe called Independents who had viewed the battle afar off said among themselves: Now of a surety are we helpless, for hath not Kirwan the scribe written falsely. So the Square of the Dominion was again deserted, and they gave it the name of the Place of Exposure to this day.

And as for the words of John A. are they not written in the chronicles of the Gazette?

So John A. prevailed against his enemies, albeit Alexander the Grit hath not yet ceased to reign.

"WHAT IS IN A NAME?"

—Shakespeare.

The issue before the people is a square issue as between Protection and Free Trade. There can be no middle course.—*Ec.*

MR. B. DEVLIN is an Independent and Reformer and a Protectionist, and would, if elected, support the Government.

MR. WM. DARLING is a Reformer and would support the Government.

MR. ARCHAMBAULT, Q. C., is a thorough Reformer and a Protectionist, and would support the Government.

MR. M. H. GAULT is a Conservative and a Protectionist.

MR. M. P. RYAN is an Independent Conservative and favors Protection.

EX-JUDGE COUNSEL is a Conservative and a Protectionist, and would not support the Government.

And yet this is a square issue in which there can be no "middle course!"