

ANGLO-FRANCO AT REGINA.

THE comet, he is on his way,
And whizzing as he flies;
The lesser planets flee before
This meteor of the skies.



There was never seen in any country such an array of brilliant women, such a phalanx of noble men, as gathered in the Council Hall, at Regina, at the opening of the first North-west Local Assembly. As an Illegal Expert, I was given a prominent seat, and was soon courteously expelled from it, to make room for a late arrival of female loveliness. At length I secured an upright position near our noble M.P., Mr. Davin, whose eagle eye and magnificent physique loomed above all the rest like an animated Tower of Pisa.

"Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a colossus; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs and peep about
To find ourselves dishonorable graves."

All present were impressed with the determined, self-reliant bearing of the different members. They did not come in timidly, but proudly, and the floor of the hall rung to the stamping of their cowhide boots. Dr. Wilson, of Edmonton, was elected Speaker, and soon after Gov. Royal entered the hall, escorted by a guard of honor, and the Speaker was formally presented to him. "Parleyvous Francais?" said His Honor. "Oui," replied the Speaker. "Bon, I will say that he will do. I accept this man, what you call him? Wilson." Gov. Royal then read his address to the House. It was encored by the three Frenchmen present, and he repeated it in French. Lieut. Gov. Royal is not as commanding looking as Dewdney, but he is a better linguist. Dewdney couldn't have read that French exercise in a week, and Royal wasn't three minutes. You can judge from this which is the better man for Governor. "Vive la Royale!" Judge Rouleau now moved an adjournment until Friday. Mr. Cayley objected. "We are here, gentlemen, with cooler heads and firmer feet than we may have again during the session. Let us use them." Mr. Gordon stepped lightly down the long hall, and explained to Mr. Cayley that the following day was observed by the Roman Catholic and Roman English Churches as a Saint's day, whereupon Mr. C. withdrew his objection, assuring the House that he wished to show proper respect to saints of every denomination. Speaker Wilson then declared adjournment. I forgot to mention that during these ceremonies the band had been playing outside in both French and English. The members had been quietly requested to meet in one of the committee rooms directly after adjournment, to engage in business of importance. When we were all crowded into the room, Mr. Tweed informed us that the change in our Vice-Regal ruler necessitated many other changes. First and foremost he proposed the formation of an Anglo-Franco Society. He said, "Gentlemen, as French is now the Court language, we cannot accept the hospitality of the ladies of Gov. House, without showing a proper deference to their

native language. No doubt there may be a few present who speak French. I, myself, can say *sacre, oui*, and champagne—this is not sufficient. I wish to be able to shower a few French compliments around. I have been given to understand that an order-in-council will soon be passed, requiring all members to —"

"I shall oppose it most emphatically. If we submit to this French innovation the next move will be to force us to eat frogs," shouted Mr. Neff.

"Permit me," said Mr. Davin, who had entered the room, "permit me to say that I know it to be a fact that our most estimable Gov. does not eat frogs. Indeed, since the siege of Paris, during the Franco-Prussian war, frogs are no longer the national dish of France. In those days of extreme want horses were found to be a great delicacy, and have taken the place of frogs. During my last sojourn in Paris, in 1887, I must have devoured a span, and I have had more *go* in me since than I ever had before. With the present dearth of horses in this constituency, even our Gov. would hardly make it compulsory for us to kill and eat horses."

"Eat horses!" cried Jelly, "good heavens, no. I'll resign first. I shall advise the Gov. on this head."

"The member from North Regina mistakes the meaning of the Hon. M. P. He does not, owing to the present scarcity of blooded horses in the North-west, apprehend any immediate legislation upon this subject," said Mr. Haultain, courteously.

Mr. Tweed now suggested that the election of officers be proceeded with. The following gentlemen were elected by acclamation: President, Dr. Brett; Vice-Pres., Mr. Cayley; Treasurer, Mr. Sutherland; Secretary, Mr. Ross; Advisory Board, Mr. Betts, Neff, Jelly, and Oliver; Legal Experts, Mr. Secord and Mr. Haultain; Chaplain, Mr. Hoey.

Dr. Brett, in a few fitting words, accepted the Presidency, and assured them that any assistance that he could give them in acquiring the French accent would be cheerfully granted. If any member wished him to write out translations for a limited number of words, he would do so. Mr. Reaburn asked what was the French for good evening, wine and ladies. Mr. Jelly wished to know the French for trotting horses, get-up, whoa, gee, and haw, as he wanted his animals to be as accomplished as himself; he believed in equal rights.

The meeting then adjourned for one week, to allow the members to get their spelling books and grammars, and the Pres't advised close application to their books, as the following week committee work and permits would be coming on.

I will report progress in French, Legislation and Permits.
I. EXPERT.



A BASE ASSERTION.—"OUT ON FIRST."