

Issuing of the Second Number of Punch in Canada.

ON THIS SATURDAY, THE THIRD OF FEBRUARY, HIS EXCELLENCY M^r. PUNCH, WITH HIS STAFF IN HIS HAND, AND ATTENDED BY THE HEADS OF HIS ESTABLISHMENT, AN OFFICE BOY AND A CHAR-WOMAN, PUBLISHES THE FOLLOWING

SPEECH :

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

I am glad once more to see you assembled to vote yourselves money and talk nonsense, although I confess my joy would be greater did I hope you would devote your time to something more useful and less expensive.

I did intend saying something about the credit of the Province, but after much anxious enquiry, I find the Province has none worth speaking of.

I understand our merciful Queen intends pardoning W. L. Mackenzie. Her Majesty is right: but you will find yourselves wrong if you attempt to provide for him out of the Public Purse.

The Imperial Government has repealed all restrictions on the use of the French language. I have great pleasure in informing you I learnt French at school, and intend presently giving you a sample of my quality, but, I regret that men living under the British Government and taking part in public affairs should not learn English, as their ignorance causes a great waste of the public money.

You will soon have the control of your Post Office. I hope you will manage it better and cheaper than it is conducted at present.

I am disposed to believe that an increase in the Representation would be attended by an increase in the public expense, and I recommend you to study the following question in the Rule of Three:—If eighty members occupy three months in talking, for which they are paid according to the latest records, at the rate of sixty-seven pounds the month each—how many months will one hundred and fifty members occupy and what will be the cost?—Besides, think of the chances of catching another Papineau.

Opposition to the school act has ceased because the said act has been allowed to become a dead-letter. Before you construct another, I should advise that no member be allowed to vote who cannot prove he has been educated himself.

I shall lay before you a despatch from the secretary of state for the colonies, expressive of the interest her Majesty's Government takes in the Quebec and Halifax Railway project. It is not mentioned whether it takes any stock in the speculation.

Among other measures of importance which will, or ought to be laid before you, is a Bill to abolish both in the English and French languages, the terms Responsible Government, British Dominion, Union Act, and Dictatorship, you will thus shut up Louis Joseph Papineau.

A bill to forbid all allusions to the Rebellion of 1837-8. You will thus shut up Doctor Well-fed Nelson.

A bill to make it treason for any member to talk nonsense. His opponents to be his Judges. You will thus shut up half the House and the other half will speak but little.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

I shall direct the Public accounts of my speech to be laid before you—Price 4d. French Translations a bawbee extra.

I rely on your readiness to grant the necessary supplies for Paper Makers, Printers, Artists, Authors, and a snug establishment for myself.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen not Honorable :

I have observed with concern, that Canada did nothing last year in the way of business, and that the administration did the same.

I have not failed, although many merchants have, to observe that England has no intention of continuing to Canada any advantages in their mutual trading operations; therefore, the best thing Canada can do is to take care of herself and bring trade into her rivers.

To effect this object your canals must be completed. To do which, I recommend that you solicit his Excellency the Governor

General to make a shift with half his present pay and allowances, which, so prudent a man as he is known to be, can easily accomplish. That all public servants whose incomes exceed one hundred per annum, should contribute ten per cent. of said income, and all private individuals five per cent.; and that you, like true patriots, which you all are, of course, serve your country and yourselves without fee or reward.

Something like this you must do, whether you like it or not, although, as I am informed, you are in possession of a revenue from many independent sources which is not equal to the expenditure, and which I cannot imagine will be increased by applying some portion of it to create a sinking fund. However, hoping you will do the best you can for your country and your constituents. I shall say no more until the next time.

LECTURE PHOBIA.

Voltaire said that if two Frenchmen were left alone in the world the one would ask the other for a place. Punch says if the anti-free trade mania or the gold fever should cause all the inhabitants of Montreal but two to emigrate, the one would ask the other to read an essay. However, as this is an innocent and harmless diversion he has no objection to give publicity to the following lectures which are expected to go off well when they come off.

W. G. Mack, Esq., on Christopher Columbus, a celebrated navigator, with the expressions he made use of when he visited, this to him, very strange land, an authentic account of this sea sickness and safe landing, a detail of his baggage and the fees paid for wharfage, portorage, &c. &c.

Dr. Russell, on the inordinate waste of plaster of Paris with illustrations.

Dr. Badgley, on indigestion and its tendency to make people indisposed—to listen to what they cannot understand. The audience are expected to illustrate this lecture.

Rev. W. Leishman on the quantities of pudding and beef consumed by working men—when they can get it.

W. C. Crofton, Esq., on the pine trees and trap dykes of Canada as available for productive industry, with copious statistics of the trade in beaver skins, formerly carried on there, he will also allude to the Afghanistan war; the flight of the Pope, the recent transit of mercury observed by Mr. McGinn; the pleasure derivable from fancy balls, and the injury done to the Plymouth break-water by the gales in October.

Rev. J. Cramp, D. D., on mummies and their applicability to agricultural purposes.

Dr. Barber. A general analysis of the preceding lectures—in which he will enter into and explain the amount of ignorance displayed by each lecturer in the treatment of his subject, and will set the public right on the to him familiar topics of astronomy, history, Phrenology, Geology, Zoology, Physiology, Poetry, Divinity, Christianity, &c. &c. Concluding with his well-known mesmerist feat of putting his audience to sleep.

FEMALE WISDOM.

The feminine dragons of propriety who preside over the destinies of the Ladies Benevolent Society refused a donation of £25, (a sum which Punch has for years considered fabulous) from the Committee of the Odd Fellow's Ball, because it was the produce of "Promiscuous Dancing,"—at least this was the reason alledged. It is odd in these times to offer such gifts, but to refuse them is odder. The Odd Fellows met with Odd Females. Let Punch ask these paragons if they always put odd questions to those who wish to give; as to how they became possessed of the money they are giving away. If they do, it is odd, indeed, if they do not get odd answers. Let none for the future send cash or debentures to the benevolent ladies without a certificate how it was procured, and will the ladies inform us what of the world's money getting ways they object to. Would they accept of California gold or of the profits of Punch?

☞ "LA FONTAINE, the modest," as he must hereafter be called, proposes to pay one hundred and eighty thousand pounds, out of the consolidated fund, to satisfy the Rebellion Losses of Lower Canada. Upper Canada paid her own. Of this sum Dr. Well-fed Nelson claims twenty three thousand pounds! If he gets it he will be better fed than ever. What may we expect next?