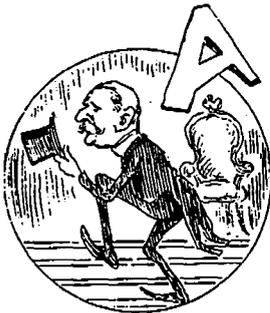


ALDERMANIC BUBBLES.

GRIP'S EVENINGS AT THE CITY HALL.



T the accustomed hour—or rather half hour—Mayor Clarke made his usual spectacular entry, and, ascending the dais, with a quick glance around took in the situation. "It gives me pleasure," he remarked, "to welcome back to our midst Ald. Lindsay, who has been on a vacation, and returns with recuperated health and a fine growth of chestnut beard and whiskers. And—do my eyes deceive

me? No, it is indeed Ald. Dodds, just as natural as ever. Let the cordiality of the welcome we extend to him be unimpaired by the memory of a melancholy episode to which I will not allude, but which ought not to permanently cast a blighting shadow over an erstwhile promising career."

"Promising—oh, yes, very promising," sighed a tradesman in the gallery with a Carnival account in his inside pocket.

ALD. HALLAM—"I have no doubt that during his period of seclusion he must often have exclaimed with the poet,

"Oh, for a lodge in some vast wilderness,  
Some boundless contiguity of shade  
Where rumors of the Jarvis Street parade,  
Of unlit candles and of unpaid bills,  
Might never reach me more!"

ALD. DODDS—"Oh, go on! Rub it in! I can stand it. One man can't do everything, and if the rest had worked as I did, the Carnival would have been a big success."

Ald. G. Verral introduced a by-law to enable peddlers to call out their goods.

ALD. GOWANLOCK—"Don't they do it?"

ALD. G. VERRAL—"Yes, but they are liable to arrest."

ALD. MACDOUGALL—"Well, that gives the public a rest."

ALD. SCORE—"This by-law, I'm afraid, will create a few roar among the peddlers."

ALD. G. VERRAL (solo)—



When the vendor of bananas is a-peddling,

—Is a-peddling.

When the fish-dealer is shouting on the street,

—On the street.

They ought to be exempt from police meddling,

—Police meddling.

From the cop who may be strolling on his beat.

—On his beat.

(Chorus by full Council.)

If the hapless man is forced his voice to smother,

—Voice to smother,

Or at sight of a blue-uniform to run,



—Form to run,  
Taking one consideration with another,  
—With another,  
The peddler's life is not a happy one.  
—Happy one.

ALD. BOUSTEAD—"Your Bill provides that the peddler shall cry his wares in moderate tone of voice. You don't specify the key. Are they to cry in 'F' or 'G'?"

ALD. MOSES—"Let 'em holler in any key but one."

ALD. BOUSTEAD—"And that is——?"

ALD. MOSES—"Whis-key."

ALD. LINDSAY—"Ald. Boustead's suggestion is worth consideration. If the peddlers could be induced to adopt a musical cadence and call out their wares in arias and fugues and staccato movements and such, the musical reputation of Toronto might be increased, and city life, instead of being a confused hurly-burly of incoherent noises, would be a continuous carnival,—I really beg your pardon, Ald. Dodds, it was a *lapsus lingua*, I assure you."

ALD. DODDS (resignedly)—"Oh, go on. Never mind me. I'm utterly past feeling on that question."

The by-law was carried.

Council went into committee of the whole on reports of committees, and a lot of business was done, especially in the line of referring back.

Wherever things get into an inextricable tangle, this is a simple, easy way of cutting the Gordian knot. When there is an amendment moved, and an amendment to the amendment, and a point of order raised by Ald. Hallam, and a question as to whether the report is or is not *ultra vires*, and half-a-dozen aldermen speaking simultaneously, some cool, calm municipal statesman sees his chance, and, as soon as he can catch the chairman's eye, remarks, "I move that the clause be referred back." And everybody accepts the suggestion gratefully as the best way out of the difficulty, and wonders why he didn't think of that before.

ALD. E. A. MACDONALD—"In reference to the report of the sub committee on page 32——"

ALD. SWAIT—"Page 36, you mean——"

ALD. MACDONALD—"No, I mean the sub committee's report on——"

CHAIRMAN—"Oh, we've passed that some time since.

We're on the Court House Committee's report."

ALD. LESLIE—"My amendment, Mr. Chairman, deals with the question of the responsibility——"

ALD. HALLAM—"Your amendment is not an amendment."

ALD. LESLIE—"Beg pardon, my amendment is an amendment."

ALD. HALLAM—"But it isn't an amendment."

