

MR. BLOOMINGNOSE PUFFER, THE SALUNE KEEPER, HAS "A INTERVYU" WITH SIR JOHN.

THE KAMPANE IS MAPPED OUT, AND MR. PUFFER BECOMES A SENNATER EN PROSPEKYU.

RUM VALLEY KORNERS, Jan. 17th, 1887.



TU MR. GRIP,—I hev just had a intervvy with the grate & only John A. & I am konsekwently in the hiest possible sperrits. I am a sennater already *en prospektu*. But I antisepte.

I got a telegram from the Preemyer on Saterdag askin' his "buz zum friend" to kum down to the kappytel for kumfert & kounsel about the elekshin. He suggested Sundy as the best day fur the purpos—being his faverite day not only fur prare but also for meditashin on the best means uv defeetin the Fillistins, and as being likely my slakest day in the salune bizness. I konkluded at wunst to go fur severel reezens—sum uv mi elekshin expenses in the Haldymand kampane not being squared up, and being desirus of pressin mi klames to a sennaturship.

I had to engage a substytute in the salune as I kood not endoor the thot of my dear patruns goin without thare proper stimyoolents during the kold wether. So I hied Sniffles fur his boord & 10% uv profits to run the bizness, givin him strikt injunkshins not to neglekt mi fellokuntrymen. (Sniffles is a good loil tory & hez done the party grand service in the back townships.)

I reeched Ottawah about midnight. Sir John wuz sittin up and waitin fur me. He sat alone bi the harthstun, lookin quite diskonselate, the big round teers rollin down hiz face & fallin one bi one of his roaming noze. It was a touchin site! "Sir John," sed I, "behold your loil servant, Bloomingnose Puffer, the salune keeper of Run Valley Korners." He aruz with delite and embrased me tenderly, and as soon as he kood overkum his emoshin he remarked, "O, Puffer, ist you, my buzzum freind, mi good angel uv delivrense, my feedus akatez? I knew yu wood not dezert me in this hour uv trial!"

He sank bak exausted and wood have swooned had I not providenshelly hev had a good bottle uv old ry with me (the Ottawah likker never agrede with me. I allus takes a bottle along fur emergensees.) We fortifide our strength and perseeded with the intervvy. "John A.," sed I, "whence theez teers? Arent you the grate Sir John, Preemyer, Privy Kounseller, and Erl uv Ottawa en prospektyu? Unbuzzum youre feelins to your fatfuhel subjek. Puffer will stand bi you. Dont be afraide." "Yes," sed Sir John, "Im Preemyer to-day, but Neddy Blake will be within two months. Puffer, Im a gone koon—Im a doomed man. Look at the provenses—all gone worth speekin about—bi elekshuns all agenst me—Katholikis all votin solid Grit—Kabbynet about busted up and det enuff to sink a nashun."

"John A.," sed I, "yure a fule to dissolve the hous. Why didnt you hold on enuther yere?" "Hold on," sed he, "that's easy enuff to talk about, but there's blamed little more to hold on to. You see I am between the devel & the see. Theres a gost uv a chanse uv winnin fur me now—there'd be none next yere. We've got a surplus up to date this yere—bi june we'll have a

defesit. McLelan hez about rooined us—he kant fix the figures any way to look well. The Male is kutting up didos that tend to bust the party. If I met the hous this winter haf mi supporters wood dezert me. They are only kamp folloers you know who yell fur John A. & good guverment when thare's plenty of boodel, and wood dezert me the minnet the pap gives out. We kant gerry-mander Ontario any wus than it is, & things look dark as erybus."

I saw he wuz quite bloo, and helped him to more Ry. "Puffer," sed the grate cheesten, "I depend on you & Karling fur the whisky vote. You must get a solid likker vote fur us or we're gone. You must put it before the vittelers in this way:—'Whoo past the Skot akt? The Gritz. Which party has neerly all the prohibishenists? The Gritz. Which party wanted to strengthen the Skot akt? The Gritz. Which party eleks most temperens men to the legislatyure? The Gritz.' And then ask 'em," sed Sir John, "which party gives the likker men a plase in the Kabbynet? which party owns Karling & Smith? Put it strong, Puffer, mi boy," sed Sir John, "helpin uv himself to more Ry, ' & we'll win the day yet."

"Now," sed Sir John, "I depend on Foster & the Male fur the temperens vote. Blame the Male, cnny way," sed the Cheesten, "it hez done us enuf harm, & if it dont rake in some of the temperens votes, I will repudate in ernest. You see Foster & the Male must kwote Blake agenst Prohibishin. We've got him on the hip thare, Puffer," sed he, hittin me an ugly poke in the stummick, "& we'll make Neddy pay fur his Alemur speech." (Here we tuk sum more refreshment.)

By this time the Preemyer wuz in his sperrits, & sed he wood karry every provense & have a bigger majurity than before. He proposed just for amoozement that we have a little round of boxin. And so we fixed a rope & went tu work lively fur a time, but Sir John persistin in strikin belo the belt, I got rather winded and gave in. Hez a lively kustumer, John A., when hez in sperrits, & a hard man to hit. He remarked quite insedentially as we fortifide ourselves agen that he had no doubt if it kame to a pursenal enkounter that he kood nok out the hole Blake famely.

I thot the time faverable and so remarked that my frends wuz wonderin when I wuz to be kalled to the Sennet. I had no desire miself—the salune bizness I noo wood pay better—but if mi kountry called me I would sakrefise everything and bekum a Sennater. Sir John sed he wuz about to speek uv the same thing. He noo my talents, mi patreutism, mi servus to the party & hed fully determined to make me a Sennater. He kood not akt at present—but he fully intended to give me Alexander's plase. "What," sed I, jumping up, "is Alexander ded—hoor—" "Ded," sed Sir John, "no—hez the liveliest fossel in the hull kollekshin yet. Be pashent, Puffer, when he leaves the seet you shall hev it."

I aroz with grate emoshin, grasped hiz hand, & while the teers uv gratitude flowed down my honest c thanked him. "No thanks," sed Sir John, "make no adew—you are a sennater alreddy *en prospektyu*." I returned in grate joy to the korners & hev been repeetin over to miself ever sinse the words of the Preemyer, neerly bustin with delite at the prospekts ahead.

I shell give sum akount uv the doins at the korners in my next. **BLOOMINGNOSE PUFFER, Salune Keeper.**

WHO were the first astrologers? The stars; because they first studded the heavens.