



THE "ROYAL" COACH-AND-FOUR,

AND HOW IT IS DRIVEN THROUGH THE PROHIBITION ACT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

that the time for a closer union between Canada and the U.S. is rapidly approaching? They think so down East—in the Marry-time Provinces."

Then a long spell of silence fell over the conclave, and the corrugated brows of the members showed how intense was the concentration of thought upon the knotty problem before them. Finally Samjones said "seems to me that the abolition of custom houses would be a good measure. It would facilitate trade. It would—would—why now I was sure I had a joke there, but, upon my life, I can't recall it."

"The usual forfeit, Bro. Samjones," said the President briskly. "Give the waiter your orders, gents. Why, it's a new waiter; where's John gone?"

"I'm varra sorry tae tell ye," said the new waiter in a strong Scotch accent, "that Jone's in the Lunatic Asylum. Puir fellow—ever sin' ye began haudin' ye're meetin's here he seemed wrang in his heid. He wad aye be makin' feckless like remarks which he ca'd puns. Gin a gentleman speered for a glass o' ale he wad gie a laugh an' say 'that's what ails ye' an sic fule talk. After listenin' tae Mr. Samjones lecture last week he had a varra bad attack o' the mania an' wiz ravin' a' nicht. The doakter said there wiz naething tae be done but to pit him in the asylum, whaur, wi' carefu' attention he may recover."

"How sad," said the Pre-ident. "I think as a precautionary measure we must see to it that our exercises are

suspended in future as long as the waiters remain in the room. We don't want to be responsible for your sanity."

"Dinna fash about me, sir," replied the Scotch waiter. "I'm no as susceptible as puir Jone, I assure ye. I'm quite impairvius to jokes, an' furthermore, I hae read the Gaelic column o' the *Mail* regularly wi'oot ony evil effects."

"Oh, in that case," said the President much relieved, "there's absolutely no danger. Your mental organization can stand any strain. Now to business."

A few more jokes, principally of a very crude character, having been got out of the tariff, the subject was declared exhausted.

Messrs. Borax and Samjones were appointed a deputation to interview the Ministerial Association and point out the advisability of introducing jokes into their sermons as a means of stimulating the interest of the public.

The President and Bro. Snorkey were constituted a deputation to wait on the Ontario Government and suggest that the infusion of a little more humor into the Government reports would greatly enhance their usefulness.

Votes of thanks were passed to Prof. Goldwin Smith for his thoughtful consideration for the public welfare in discontinuing the publication of the *Bystander*, and to GRIP, "whose accurate reports of the meetings of the Club indicate his zeal in the *caus*."