

GREAT BALLOON EXPEDITION.

We learn that the Ministry, elated by their recent escape and the halo of glory with which they have since been surrounded, have determined upon an expedition which will cast all their former exploits into the shade. The depth to which they have been sunk is to be amply compensated by the height to which they are about to rise. Even the glories of the double shuffle will henceforth be forgotten. The *Globe* has chosen to complain that they never take an elevated view of the political necessities of the country. To shut for ever its slanderous mouth and force its very ink to blush most rosely, they have in solemn assembly resolved to attempt a grand Balloon ascension, and Professor Wise—appropriate name for a balloonist—has already been engaged for the enterprise.

We believe that the limits of the trip have not been settled, but Port Hope is mentioned as possessing the highest claims to the distinction. If they could manage to reach Port Credit it would doubtless be desirable. Mr. Rose, whose patronymic it is thought, suggested the idea of the aerial journey, entertains serious fears that in this hot weather he cannot fail to be *blown*. If he should be, he will prove a decided instance of a man blown sky-high. The crafty John A. has some scruples about the matter. His aspirations hitherto have not been very heavenward, and he fears that he is too old to learn. He has, however, consented to go in the same boat with his colleagues, provided the honourable three-days Premier bears them company. Such kindness towards a political opponent is very gratifying, and we repudiate the insinuation that he considers the great Grit nothing better than a dead weight—still more, that he is indifferent what mishap may befall himself, so long as his dear friend George gets a full share.

Professor Wise is of opinion, that but little ballast will be required. One of Mr. Rose's heavy speeches of last session will be amply sufficient for the purpose. As the ministry are bent upon conducting this, like all their arrangements, upon the most economical principles, it is intended to inflate the balloon with the superfluous gas contained in one of Mr. Vankoughnet's harangues. Mr. Gowan's were proposed as being of the lightest and most transparent character, but the operators objected on the ground of its being too foul for use.

The project has been received with the greatest enthusiasm by Mr. Galt, to whom it offers a splendid opportunity of carrying out his favorite scheme of imposing a tax upon sun-light. But the great attraction will be centred in Mr. Alley. Since the matter has been broached, he has been in constant and assiduous practice upon the tight rope. Such perfection has he reached that he will confidently walk blindfolded over a rope five miles long, one end of which will be fastened to a sunbeam and the other to the edge of a cloud, thus casting Blondin's petty achievement into deepest shade. The distinguished acrobat will permit us to suggest that he had better look out when he comes to the rope's end.

The absence of Mr. Speaker Smith upon so interesting an occasion is deeply deplored, and will be, sensibly felt, not only because his urbanity and high

breeding would have added to the general hilarity, but from the dignity and authority with which he would have called to "order" any young Boreas who ventured to bluster too loudly. It has been suggested that if the block in Bantley's window were equipped with his imposing hat and that wig, which is still the shade of a wig, it would form the striking resemblance of its expression to that of our distinguished ambassador, be completely effectual to awe the said juvenile Boreases, however disposed to unruliness. There are some doubts about the advisability of permitting Mr. Cartier to form one of the party, inasmuch as it is thought that his startling propensities would irresistibly lead him as far as the dog-star. And should he never return, what a woful day for Canada! What lamentations in our Legislative halls should his dulcet tones no more no more be heard! What wailings and teeth-gnashings in Windsor's princely saloons, should his courtly form no more be seen! We shudder at the bare prospect.

Mr. Malbais Smith has already in preparation a poem, which he will improvise upon the occasion:—With the liberality which characterizes his treatment of the Press, he has transmitted to us the opening stanzas, the singular beauty of which augurs well for the future of the Canadian muse.

All hail, ye regions of the upper air,
And winds which loudly snort around!
My eyes, I guess you kind of stare
To see us up so far from ground.

Oh, now be kind to us, I pray!
And kindly let us throw you pass;
And if for letters you've to pay,
Why write me down a deuced ass.

At one time it was proposed to invite Mr. McGee to assist in wooing the clouds. But in consequence of a heartless attempt at a joke, he was very properly excluded.

Upon hearing of the project he pronounced it very appropriate, because he had always thought that the Ministry had a marked tendency to *be all loons*. Very little danger is apprehended from the experiment. Mr. Malcolm Cameron's services are to be secured at any price, as in case they should be entangled in a forest his experience as "Ooon" would be invaluable. They have been so long in continual hot water that, in the event of their being plunged into Ontario, it is thought that its cooling waters will form an agreeable change. We can assure our readers that we shall keep them informed as to the latest news regarding this interesting subject.

HOW TO KEEP COOL.

Drive an ice cart.
Read the *Colonist*.
Stand up to your chin in the lake.
Take off your skin and sit in your bones.
If none of those experiments succeed, try the following:
Try to compose a poem.
Take tea with a vixen.
Dance the gallop.
Promenade King st. with a lady.
Tell a lady she is not handsome.
Kick a Bulldog.

THE TWELFTH.

We hasten to give Nassau C. Gowan, Secretary of the Orange Association, credit for the only sensible act of his life. There is no denying that he can place a portion of western Canada under a still deeper obligation to him; but, strange as it may seem, even such patriots as the Gowan's, are not willing to die in obedience to the desire of their country; therefore we must be content with duly chronicling the little good which a Gowan has actually performed.

The act we allude to is the publication of a letter from the Secretary, calling upon his Orange brethren to abstain from carrying deadly weapons at the approaching celebration of the Twelfth, and also from insulting any one who does not happen to be one of themselves. By so doing, the members of the association will be obeying the laws of the land, and the laws of common sense. It is needless to say that no reliance is to be placed on the rumours that threats to injure life, and probably have been made by Orangemen. It is also needless to say, that if there is any disturbance, it will tell against the association, especially. Let us therefore hope that a large quantity of common sense will be displayed on that day by men of all creeds, and that no one will precipitately make a donkey of himself.

THE THEATRE.

Mr. and Miss Richings have played at the Lyceum during the whole of this week. We did hope that their well recognized ability and universal popularity, would have secured them a better support during the last few days of their engagement. We can only say that, not to speak of the injustice done to the *artistes* themselves, the public have deprived themselves of a most delightful series of entertainments. The performance of "Extromes," "The Daughter of the Regiment," "Clari," and Miss Richings' clever adaptation of "What will he do with it," were splendidly presented. Miss Richings' singing is alone worth the price of the performance, and yet, perhaps, as a reaction after the visit of the Opera Troupe, they have not met with anything like the encouragement we anticipated. We trust that we shall not have to utter these complaints again; we can hardly expect that actors of ability will visit Toronto, to meet with such an inadequate reception.

Miss Mailla Hughes takes a benefit this evening, and we hope that she will be met with the liberal patronage to which she is entitled.

On Monday and Tuesday, Sanford's celebrated Opera Troupe and Brass Band will appear; we are sure they will meet with a hearty welcome. Barry Sullivan, the great tragedian, will make his first appearance in Toronto on Wednesday, as "Richelieu." We can only express a hope that so talented and eminent an actor as Mr. Sullivan will be treated much better than the stars who have visited Toronto lately.

Seats in University Park.

—We are glad that our suggestion relative to the placing of seats in the University Park, where the Rifle Band plays once a week, has been adopted.