

BOARD OF NATIONAL HEALTH.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

Miss Canada, a favourite and much-petted daughter of the illustrious John Bull, having for some time past been in a state of extreme nervous excitement, approaching to insanity, Dr. Punch was called in by her anxious relatives. He found the young lady in a state of great debility, and covered with leeches, sucking her life-blood. These creatures have been suffered to remain for years by the quacks who have been attending her; and it is evident that her constitution, although originally good, is very much undermined. The venerable Dr. Punch soon became convinced that her senses were wandering, from the circumstance of her requesting him in one breath to allow her to be placed under somebody's protection, and in another asserting she would be free with everybody. Finding he could gain from her no knowledge of the causes of her malady, he resolved on calling together the Board of National Health, the members of which had lately been prescribing for his unfortunate patient. The meeting took place in his office in Yonge-street, which was decorated for the occasion with expensive hangings of blue and white calico, bought at an alarming sacrifice. A flag was hoisted over the front door at the end of a staff. The flag was a small cotton pocket-handkerchief, on which was impressed the form of Britain's glorious symbol, the Union Jack, and the staff was once the property of a policeman. The flag and staff together were intended as allegorical hints to Annexationists, to "move on."

The members of the Board who attended the consultation were, Dr. Administration, Dr. Annexation, Dr. British-Connexion, Dr. League, Dr. Clear-Grit, and Dr. Punch. Dr. Punch was unanimously voted into the chair.

Dr. ADMINISTRATION, on being questioned by the venerable Punch, said, he believed that Miss Canada's sufferings were for the most part imaginary. She certainly was slightly insane; but the leeches which had been applied by himself and the preceding regular practitioners, kept her system low, and violence was not to be apprehended. For his own part, he thought the leeches highly beneficial to the young lady; and in spite of Dr. Clear-Grit and Dr. League, who were nothing but quacks, he would not consent to their removal. Ignorant people had asserted that Miss Canada was in indigent circumstances; that was an absurdity. She was never behindhand in the payment of her fees to him—and thumping fees they were—therefore, would any doctor believe a patient was poor and deprived of the necessaries of life, when she forked out so liberally for the luxuries? Besides, with reference to the assertion of poverty, was it not patent to everybody—by which remark he meant to assert that Miss Canada was a universal patentee—was it not, he said, patent to everybody, that she voluntarily contributed to maintain and keep up a huge army of locusts—by locusts he meant lawyers—and although inviting one of the plagues of Egypt to visit her at her own private costs and charges, might be good evidence of her insanity, it was a complete refutation of the imputation of poverty. Even admit that some of her accounts were a trifle in arrear, look at her vast estate—reckon up her numerous tenants. Could she not raise their rents? In the memorable words of "fructification Thompson"—afterwards that great statesman, Lord Sydenham—"suppose the ready cash had disappeared from the coffers of Miss Canada, she possessed the power of extracting from her tenants all they had; and therefore, if she had allowed them to retain the use of what they foolishly fancied was their own, it was but fructifying in the pockets of her people, ready to be filched out whenever her necessities required it." The learned doctor spoke for some hours; he stated he was the family physician, and his opinion alone was worthy to be considered; that the young lady required no other attendance; that the members of the Board who volunteered their advice, were merely looking after fees—they were an interested set of quacks; and that if Miss Canada were left in his hands, he would restore her to the now half-alienated arms of her affectionate parents, in a state of plethoric health which would astonish both the natives and the foreigners.—The worthy doctor sat down amidst the mingled grins and grimaces of the assembled faculty.

Dr. ANNEXATION said it warn't not no mortal use Dr. Administration a standing up and pitching long yarns about Miss Canada not being in a state of poverty. Warn't she single, and what was

a single gal tu do in these times? He seed no remedy but for her tu enter right away into them blessed United States. Warn't a single gal a slave tu her father?—and was gals made tu be slaves? There was that almighty spry chap Jonathan, who for a long time had felt a sort o' kinder longing for Miss Canada, and would buckle to her at once, ill-health and all. Warn't she a drooping daily, and wouldn't sich a union revive her? Wouldn't all Jonathan's red cents be hern?—and wouldn't he lend the farmers who farmed her estates whole millions of dollars to make roads?—and wouldn't he give them twenty per cent. more for their wheat and their timber?—and wouldn't sugar be nothing a pound, and tea less than nothing?—and wouldn't Miss Canada, when she became Mrs. Jonathan, jist have nothing to do but sit down and play the piano and eat 'lasses candy?—and wouldn't Jonathan do everything for her, and cherish her, and manage her estate for her, and collect her rents for her, and make her jist one of the happiest, do-nothingest critturs on the universal airth? He rather gnessed he would. It was jist no use at all tinkering and doctoring the young gal's constiution; it was clear gone, without she swallowed the matrimonial pill he had prescribed.

Dr. BRITISH-CONNEXION said, ignorance and impudence were usually allied, and he would give Dr. Annexation credit for having a preponderance of both. Miss Canada had certainly not been well treated by her father; but the treatment of those who professed to be her friends, was much worse. As for the idea that uniting herself to an unprincipled scamp like Jonathan, would benefit either her pocket or health, it was preposterous. Jonathan could lend her farmers or her manufacturing servants no money, for the simple reason—that he had none to lend. He was a borrower himself, of Miss Canada's father, and not over honest in making repayment either. He was convinced that a union with a profligate such as Jonathan, would entail nothing but misery upon a young lady whom he had long known and much respected, and whose case he by no means considered desperate. Following bad advice, had produced many of the present symptoms; and he had no doubt that amongst the learned members of the faculty present—here Dr. British-Connexion looked earnestly upon the chairman—that some remedy would ere long be discovered and applied.

Dr. LEAGUE was of opinion, that the extreme debility of Miss Canada resulted from the enormous leeches applied by Dr. Ministerialist, which absorbed so large an amount of her circulation; but she was sanguiferous, and he considered leeches essential to her existence. He would certainly remove those which at present afflicted her, but would substitute others of a species known as the "Protection leech." These were not indigenous, and must therefore be imported. However, they could be had cheap from old Bull, the patient's father, who had utterly discarded them as hurtful to his constitution. He would explain the action of the "Protection leech." They sucked the life-blood from the most healthy parts of the system, which, when well sprinkled with tax-gatherer's salt, they disgorged into the feebler portions of the frame. He would admit that the salt absorbed a large portion of the vital principle, but sufficient would remain to render the diseased members fat and bloated; and to superficial observers, these would present an appearance of health. Thus the patient's mind would be quieted, and her debility, through the agency of the "Protection leech," would be removed from parts, and distributed over the whole body—and consequently would be but little felt. That the treatment he proposed might, nay, probably would, eventually kill the patient, he was free to acknowledge; but at any rate she would last out his time, and pay him his fees; and, for one, he had no intention of bothering himself about posterity.

Dr. CLEAR-GRIT rose with indignation beaming on his rubicound countenance, and with great vehemence and every symptom of intense indignation, said that he was a member of the Board of National Health, but as yet neither Miss Canada or her friends had deigned to consult him, although he was the only man who could do her any good. As for Dr. Annexation's advice to try matrimony with young Jonathan it was a violent measure, and therefore he was almost inclined to support it having a natural liking for violent measures of all kinds. However, he would not go for it, because he would go for nothing which anybody else proposed, seeing that excepting himself every member of the Board was an ass. Some of them had talked about Miss