

"No, no," said they; "go on, go on."

"Well, I went on, and finished; and when I had done, I turned round, and said out loud to him, 'Now, Sir, you say I have spoke your mind?'"

"So you have," said he. "It's a trick—a cursed Yankee trick!"

"I come pretty near increasin' the size of the critter's head for that, but I bit in. Said I, 'Ladies and Gentlemen, is that fair to a stranger like me, that could positively chaw him up, only he don't like the taste of the coon?'"

"No, no," said they, "it aint fair."

"Well," said I, "I'll tell you what is fair, and that is turn and turn about. You say I spoke your mind, Sir; now do you speak mine, when you move the next resolution; and see if it won't be the best speech you ever made since you was born." Creation, how folks larfed! "Now," said I, amovin' off, and settin' down, "take the floor."

"Well, he got up, and scratched his head—"Ladies and Gentlemen," said he, "ahem! that speech is my speech; I made it; and this is a trick;" and down he sot.

"Well, I jumped up, and said I, 'If his mouth has been picked of his speech, a thing I never heard tell on before, it aint been picked of his tongue, for that's safe and sound; but I'll move the resolution for him, so as to keep things astirrin';" and then I give them one of my ramblin', funny sort of speeches, with capital stories, that illustrated everything but the resolution; and it was received with immense applause. Mulgrave was only on a visit to Truro, so next day he returned to Halifax; and to this time, nobody understands a word about the story."

"Well, I never heard that anecdote before," said Uncle Sam, risin'. "Take another glass of wine. I have heard of plagiarisms on all sorts of scales, from purloining a quotation, as the 'great military critic' did, and borrowing ideas, down to using printed sermons, as many clergymen do; but this is the first time I ever heard of 'stealing a speech!'"

CHAPTER III.

EVERYTHING IN GENERAL, AND NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

"PRESIDENT," said I, "I am afraid I am takin' up too much of your valuable time, and really I don't want to bore you."

"Bore me! pray don't say that," said he, "I like to hear you amazingly; it's better than a printed book, for I can ask questions