

# The Canadian Bee Journal

D. A. JONES & Co., Publishers.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## "OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT" RISES AND EXPLAINS.

**H**E explains that that mysterious "Canadian bee-paper" (not even honored with capital letters) is none other than our own beloved CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, (I just "wink" with my pen at the compositor, *sub rosa*, to put this last handsome cognomen in fine, large type, and to religiously observe the Capitals!)

As I suspected, "our own correspondent" is, indeed, our own W. F. Clarke. "The thin disguise he had assumed for the nonce" was hardly thick enough for the eye of that naughty but "guileless" who pretended to be "seeking light" when he had the light all the time. But "our own correspondent" is evidently not as good at guessing as "A Subscriber seeking light," for he is hitting the wrong man. I have personally met Mr. Clarke but once and exchanged with him only a few words (they were pleasant, however, on both sides) and from the familiar description he gives it is quite plain he is away out of his latitude in his identification. I may say here it is exceedingly seldom that I use a *non de plume* for I would scorn to write a syllable that I would be ashamed to own or stand by. There is not one improper word or motive in that ironical letter which has caused Mr. Clarke to "rise and explain"; but I had a reason for writing anonymously "for the nonce"—not an unworthy reason either. If Mr. Clarke desires to know who this "anonymous correspondent" is, let him drop a card to the editor of this JOURNAL asking the information and it shall be given him. I authorize the editor to do this in order to prove the truth of what I have asserted above, viz: that I would scorn to write anything anonymously that I was not prepared to defend to the last word. Mr. Clarke may perhaps be joking, but if he really means what he insinuates, that "A Subscriber" lacks "truthfulness" because of that letter, I can only express my great surprise. Anybody with half an eye ought to be able to see that "A Subscriber's" letter seeking for light is *ironical* from beginning to end! I have always imagined that *irony* was a perfectly legitimate weapon—that satire, sarcasm and even ridicule were perfectly legitimate weapons when properly used. To predicate untruthfulness of the satirist *per se* is

something I would hardly expect from a *litterateur* like Mr. Clarke. I employed these on the subject of the "Canadian bee-paper" simply because the subject deserved nothing better from the armory of the polemic or reformer. Ridicule will often touch the right spot when serious, didactic argument utterly fails. I wanted to know who was responsible for trying to belittle and injure our CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL by calling it out of its name, and that was the method I chose to get the information and at the same time to have a shot at folly, for Pope tells us to "shoot folly as it flies." If the shot struck home anywhere, and if the shoe fits anybody, why let that body put it on and wear it more circumspectly in future.

As a Canadian I was certainly both interested and pleased to read Mr. Clarke's account of his connection with the A. B. J. and the origin of that connection. That the facts are highly creditable to him I acknowledge with pleasure. But I fail to see how long connections and fast friendships, however strong or proper, can give Mr. Clarke the right to do even the semblance of injustice to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. He may have intended no discourtesy or wrong, but to my mind (though I may be wrong) the thing looks quite improper. Now, although Mr. Clarke is wrong in his guess in identity, he is entirely right in supposing that "A Subscriber" has no desire to "pick a quarrel with anybody, for, like our worthy editor, he is distinctly for peace; but at the same time he would never purchase peace at the expense of principle or justice. Wherefore, regarding these attempts on the C. B. J. as not only a little unjust but exceedingly foolish, and being convinced that oftentimes there is no more effectual way to dislodge folly than to "poke fun at it" and laugh at it he accordingly set about laughing at the folly of "our own correspondent" and his editor—two most admirable gentlemen who, like Cæsar's wife, ought to be high above suspicion of any such petty peccadillo.

A SUBSCRIBER  
(Now Rejoicing in the Light.)

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### THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBIT.

**R**IGHT heartily glad am I to know that so much interest is felt and manifested in the Colonial Exhibition to be held in London, England, next year. I have been seeking information about the matter and corresponding with members of the committee, but so far we all seem to be shrouded in considerable darkness. I would like to act upon your suggestion, page 517 of C. B. J., but there seem to be difficulties