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The gravest Beast is the Ass; the gravest Bird is the Owl;
The gravest Fish is the Oyster; the gravest Man is the Fool.

To Correspondents.

S. J. K., St. JOHN, N. B.—Thanks for your complimentary allusions. Shall be pleased to hear from you as a contributor.

The Big Race.

Special Report by our own Englishman.

Perhaps before this letter reaches your office you shall have heard the result of the Champion boat race, as I am given to understand that telegraphic communication has been established between the frontier districts of Canada and the American terminus of the Atlantic Cable. If so, you are already aware that HANLAN, the Yankee sculler, came off victor. According to agreement, I proceed to give you an account of the affair. I shall be brief for two reasons, first, because I don't like writing about boat races; and second, because I don't feel well.

There were a great many persons present. Several thousands, I should say, or perhaps more. Their main object in assembling was to satisfy a morbid curiosity as to what sort of a creature a live Canadian was, a report being current in Newcastle society that he was something between a fish and a gasbag; though of course they were bent upon witnessing the race, too. About the appointed hour the start was made, and ELLIOTT shot ahead. After going a short distance, he permitted HANLAN to come up, just to encourage him. At this the crowd cheered greatly. Our Champion acknowledged the compliment by putting in forty strokes to the minute. Then, desiring to give the spectators a fair view of the queer looking American, ELLIOTT allowed him to go past altogether. The people having taken a good satisfactory gaze, our magnificent sculler made up his mind to put the visitor in the rear again, but before carrying out this intention the winning post came up the river, and passed HANLAN, who was, therefore declared winner, though there is no doubt that if the finishing point had been nearer to ELLIOTT the result would have been very different indeed. I must frankly own that I do not believe HANLAN's boat was fitted with gas and steam-pipes, as is generally reported here, but I am rather inclined to agree with Tynesiders in general, that it was very unfair for HANLAN to wear a red rag around his head and a blue shirt without sleeves. There is no doubt in my mind that he did it with the red rag.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE.

Robber-det of the "Hawkeye"

Is civilization after all a failure, and is BURDETTE, of the *Hawkeye*, as bad a man as the rest of them? GRIP transferred what he considered a good original thing from that paper to his Joker Club in a recent issue, and now an intelligent correspondent from the Maritime Provinces jumps up and says: "It wasn't fair to old crusty SAM. JOHNSTON to have you palm off one of his rough table-talk gems as the produce of some Mr. NELSON, for whom the Burlington *Hawkeye* is responsible. I think either it is BOSWELL or HANNAH MORE who tells the story of the author of the *Rambler*. Once at a dinner, SAMUEL, who never took very careful stock of what was before him so long as there was plenty of it, hoisted in a huge cut of a boiling hot potato; the water came to his eyes, but instantly voiding the offender into his capacious palm, he crushed it flat upon the table beside him. Glaring angrily up and down among the guests, to squelch any incipient smile, he roared, 'A fool would have kept it in his mouth, till it burned him!'"

Hanlan the Great!

INTERVIEWED BEFORE THE RACE.—ENGLAND AND ELLIOTT IN EXTREMIS!—A HOLLOW VICTORY!!!

By Cable from our Special in England:

NEWCASTLE, June 16th, 1879.

Having in London yesterday, at the Ulster-marine Club met three of my particular friends, Count THOLESPINSKI, of the Russian Embassy, Captain TRYCEMUP, R. N., and the Hon. FELIX FINNEGAN, son of the Earl of SPUDMURPHY from the sister Isle, I proposed we should all go together to the Coaly Tyne and witness the great event. My friends were all enthusiasts as to aquatics, and great lovers (except as a beverage) of the water, so a more desirable party could hardly be found. Accordingly we set off at once, as I was anxious to find out if possible the truth of the compressed air story, which turned out to be all "gas" as I supposed. Already, as we arrived, we found the country round invested by perhaps something less than half a billion of people, a great many of whom were of course strangers easily distinguished from the native Tynesiders in as much as their faces were of a less dingy hue—but on the whole the appearance of the immense multitude was of the coal coaly. Approaching HANLAN's quarters where I was told GRIP was always welcome, I lost no time in interviewing the Boy. He appeared in excellent "form" and was partaking of his prescribed lunch as I entered—sea biscuit and water cresses—washed down with a "schooner" of Toquay. "I must be aquatic even in my regimen," laughingly said the gentle youth, "though they are bound I won't get *surfeited*." "To beach sure," I replied, falling into the humorous vein for which I am so justly celebrated, "but my boy, how do you think it will go with you to-day? all right I hope."

"Well," said the champion, "in matters of this description, the result is always exceedingly problematical. A wrong diagnosis of one's apparently slight indisposition by one's physician might be ruinous, not to mention that a more tangible, let us not say monetary, interference would perhaps be capable of deciding the result of any contest, but my present undisguised opinion is, that I can knock the spots out of him!" and the champion taking a long draught of Mozelle out of a pewter mug, politely bowed us out.

After coming out, the Hon. FELIX advanc-

ed the theory that with the aid of a strong magnet in the bow of the boat and a steel lining to the after part of the Canadian's attire he would by the consequent attraction created thereby have much force in going forward, which so far was quite true, but the slight drawback of his not being able to get in position for another stroke without leaving his clothes or pulling the stem out of the boat, in my eyes at once condemned the idea.

THE RACE.

in itself is hardly worth while speaking of. In spite of the demoniacal shouts of the natives for their favorite, it was evident that HANLAN could go around him "like a cooper round a cask"—and when the race was over, I could tell by the vertical cuttings through the surface deposit of the woe-be-gone Geordies faces, how deeply they were affected by the "Yankee's" success. It is freely rumoured here that HANLAN is to be named for the first vacancy on the Bulgarian throne, and that he is likewise spoken of as the future Governor of Cyprus, vice Sir GARNET WOOLSELEY exchanged. But the champion says he won't forsake the old town, and would be satisfied with a landing waitership in Toronto, for, as he jocularly remarked on the occasion, "It's a poor Custom House that can't afford two 'boys.'"

A Catechism on "Politics."

By ZEDEKIAH TIMBERTON.

Ques.—What do you understand by the term "Politics?"

Ans.—The accepted meaning of the term "Politics" is the science of governing a country—(especially this country).

Ques.—In what manner is a country affected by this science?

Ans.—In two ways, in general and in concrete.

Ques.—Define these.

Ans.—"Politics in general" is their operation on the masses, "Politics in concrete," their influence on the individual.

Ques.—How are politics brought to bear on the masses?

Ans.—Politics are brought to bear upon the masses through the individual, hence the Politician.

Ques.—How do politics affect the masses?

Ans.—Sometimes one way and sometimes another, but you never can tell for certain.

Ques.—What influence do they exert on the individual?

Ans.—Usually a very powerful influence, especially in the neighborhood of the pocket.

Ques.—Is a politician a statesman?

Ans.—Not by any manner of means.

Ques.—What is the difference?

Ans.—A statesman acts for what he thinks the best interests of his country; a politician is concerned only for the best interests of himself and party.

Ques.—What are the necessary qualifications for a successful politician?

Ans.—There are a good many—such as—he must have a very slight regard for truth, statements of fact, (especially when attacking an opponent), he must be ready at a moment's notice to speak for any length of time, upon any conceivable subject, (whether he knows anything about the subject or not) and he must always vote with his party, all the time keeping a bright lookout for No. 1.

Ans.—Is this consistent with the general welfare and interests of the country?

Ans.—No, but very much in the interest of the party, and the politician.

Ques.—Is such conduct patriotic?

Ans.—No; but you can't expect patriotism from politicians.