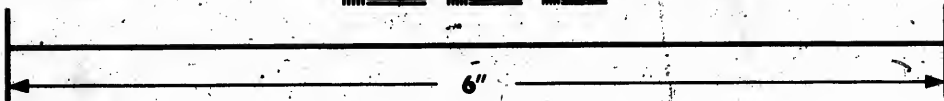
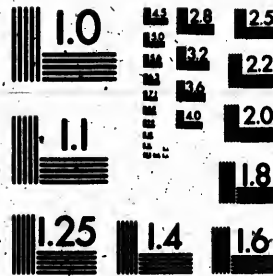


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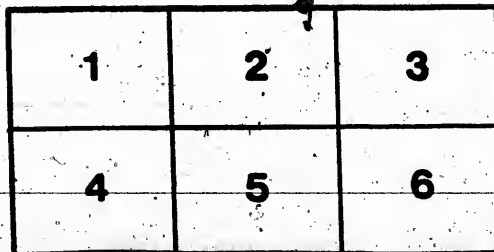
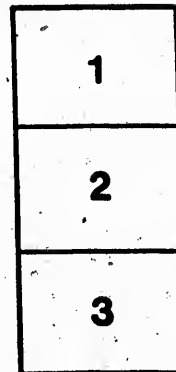
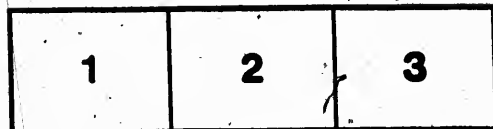
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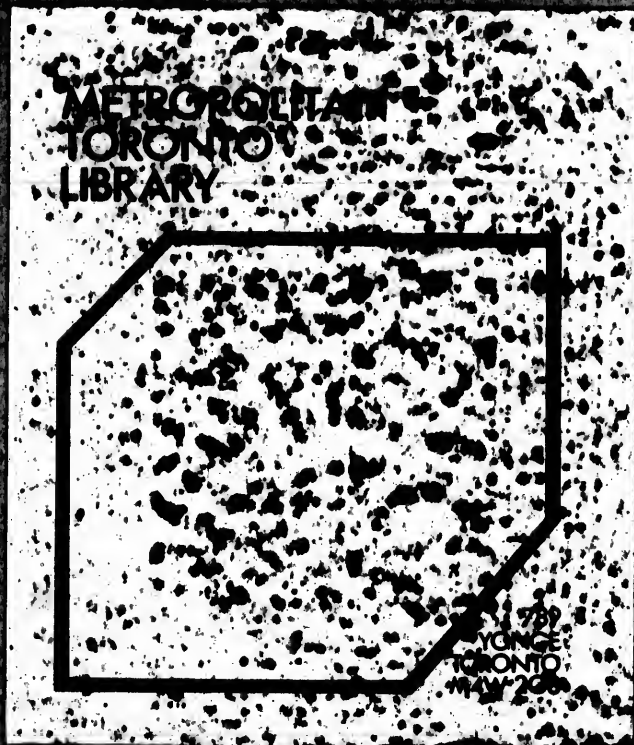
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Commercial Courtship and Unselfish Union.

A BURLETTA "TALE OF THE BORDERS."

SCENE:—*The green sward in front of a Border Customs House.
Niagara Falls in the background.*

CHARACTERS.

MISS CANADA *A buxom belle.*

MR. SAM SLICK *A smart commercial pioneer.*

MR. JOHN BULL *A jolly old boy from the "old countree."*

SAM.

Hail, Canadia! How do you do?

I've been learning a ditty on purpose for you.

(Sings "Star Spangled Banner.")

I say, can you see by the dawn's early light
Any signs of the good time of which I've been dreaming,
When our tiffs and our tariffs will all be set right,
And our sell-fishy fish-folk will cease from blaspheming?
Can't we jine in house-keeping? I love you right hard,
And I'll give you my nutmegs and notions and lard.
Oh, say, is it worth it, this Custom-House shave?
Should a friend of the free be a Tariff-tied slave?

4 *Commercial Courtship and Unselfish Union.*

MISS C.

Well, I think you are rather a forward young man
Though I'm sure you wish me well ;
I'd like to be neighbourly, sisterly too,
But I've one little secret to tell—
I'm afraid you mustn't make love to me,
For "my heart's in the highlands," across the sea !

SAM.

Now you're wrong if you think I'd tempt your heart
From your dear, distant Johnny to roam,
For I only wish you in trade to unite,
With your next-door neighbour at home ;
Our interests may link if our hearts mayn't agree
To join fortunes would profit both you and me.

MISS C.

That's very well spoken, indeed, Mr. Sam,
It's candid and perfectly fair,
And I think when friends have what each other needs,
They certainly ought to share ;
Her face is the fortune of many a bride,
But I've a fair dowry I need not hide.

(*Air*: "Rich and rare were the gems she wore.")

Rich and rare are the gems I wear,
And a royal diadem binds my hair ;

But oh ! my riches are greater far
Than sparkling gems and jewels are.

My mineral mines hide wealth untold,
My ores are bright with silver and gold,
My farms and forests decay defy,
My seas yield fish for a world's supply.

If a business union your views will suit,
And platonic love be absolute,
Why, then, for the good of my own dear land,
I'll give England my heart and you my hand.

M.

That's good ! Why, many marriages,
Sans sentimental leaven,

Turn out about as happily
As matches made in heaven !

But what do YOU think o' that, John Bull,
I'd like to hear what YOU say ?

JOHN B.

Well, I know her love for me and mine
Glow warm within her breast,
But she's old enough and 'cute enough
To know what suits her best,
And as I'm a sensible chap, Cousin Sam,
I say, let her have her own way.

SAM.

Why, cert'nly, sir, that's my sentiment, sure!
When we can't boss the girls—we must just endure.

MISS C.

But you know, Mr. Bull, how glad I shall be
To send you my produce (*perhaps, some day*, FREE!)

JOHN B.

Ha! ha! my dear girl, that's kind! Well, well,
All sorts of things happen, we never can tell!

(*He sings, air, "The Roast Beef of Old England."*)

When native roast beef was an Englishman's food,
And we bred our own bullocks and kept our meat good,
Then butchers kept prices as low as they could—

Oh the roast beef of Old England,
And oh for Old England's roast beef!

But prices rose higher and money grew tight,
Prime joints on our tables became a rare sight,
Our butchers charged double and swore it was right!

Oh the dear beef of Old England,
And oh for the old-fashioned beef!

Then Yankees sent live meat, the price fairly low,
And nasty "jerked beef," much like carrion crow,

And we'd "canned" from Australia—but all was no go—
Oh for the beef of Old England,
And oh for the true British beef!

Then conscienceless butchers improved upon that,
They bought up the carcass beef, trimmed off the fat,
And swore it was English! What think you of that?
Oh the 'cute butchers of England!
Let's "owe" for their ocean-brought beef!

And now *you*, Miss Canada, send me live-stock
To replenish my store and swell trade at the dock,
Yet failure your well-meant attempt seems to mock—
To improve the roast beef of Old England,
And the funds of our growers of beef!

So what with bad times and competings like these,
And our imports of foreign live-stock with disease,
Poor John Bull is enjoying a deuce of a squeeze,
And he sighs for more luck for Old England,
More power to Old England's roast beef!

MISS C.

My bonnie Scotch boys are serenading me!
They're singing their favourite "Bonnie Dundee."

(Voices in the distance are heard singing vigorously.)

We Kanucks and you Yanks are short-sighted in greed,
We're depriving each other of what we both need;

8 *Commercial Courtship and Unselfish Union*


Our pioneer labours are foolishly foiled,
And the trade of both countries is stupidly spoiled,
On mutual good-will our joint welfare depends
So "over the border" let's shake and be friends ;
Away with the tariff, and off with the fee,
Down with the duties and let us be free !

SAM.

Bravo ! my braw Sawnies ! have a whuskie wi' me,
And we'll drink to the lassies frae " Bonnie Dundee

(SAM strikes an attitude.)

Now, at drinking, as a nation
We believe in moderation,
But I guess at an oration
We Yanks can lick creation,
So without a hesitation
I'll express my indignation
At this Custom House taxation.
I call it a vexation,
And a gross abomination,
Which causes irritation,
And some bad prevarication,
And sad dissimulation
(Not to mention imprecation),
In our trading population.



Now, why should separation
Hinder trade's free circulation,
When fair co-operation
Would work out the salvation
Of our friendly federation
For business propagation?
It seems a violation
Of the friendly-state relation,
And a senseless aggravation
Of pernicious agitation,
Which breeds an alienation
'Twixt men of moderation,
Whose aim and occupation
Is to work some mitigation
Of the present sore stagnation.
So let's end procrastination!
Let's form a combination,
And achieve emancipation
From this Tariff domination!
Let's strive in emulation,
As men of sense and reputation,
And commercial education,
To enact a regulation,
For the Tariff's reformation—
Or complete extermination!

Rally, then, to reason !
Action is in season !
Strike the blow ! Let rulers know,
That throttling trade is treason !
Let no more these bars divide us
From our neighbours close beside us,
Let common sense henceforward guide us,
THEN our land will thrive !

SAM.

Bravissimo ! Taffy—good boy, good boy !
You sing like a seraph, I wish you joy !
What think you, friend John, of your daughter's manners,
Ain't she borrowing one of your Free Trade banners ?

JOHN B.

Oh, I wouldn't prevent the dear girl if I could,
Why shouldn't she do like her dad ?
I certainly think that her MANNERS are good,
But her CUSTOMS confoundedly bad !

(He sings lovingly, air: "Go Where Glory Waits Thee.")

Go where glory waits thee,
But when success elates thee,
O still remember me !
Neighbours may caress thee,

With fair words address thee,
To join their circle press thee,—
Do what best may be ;
But when thy future choosing,
Accepting or refusing,
O still remember me !

MISS C.

The impulse of progress may bear me from you,
But sentiment ever will keep my love true !

(She sings, with much tenderness, air: "The Old Folks at Home.")

Ah ! never can my heart cease turning
Back to the village green ;
Sweet memories, with affection burning,
Cherish the dear old scene !
Hopes may change, new friendships cheer us,
As through strange lands we roam,
But in our heart of hearts we keep them near us,
Our dear-loved old folks at home.

SAM.

Ah ! no national anthem's more touching and grand,
For England I love as my own fatherland !
Well now, let's to business ; you won't think me vain,
If I sing you a stave of MY national strain.

(Sings, air: "Yankee Doodle.")

Sentiment's a potent spell
To tickle Yankee Doodle,
But in this partnership affair,
The main thing is—the boodle.
Suppose we kick these tariffs off,—
The saving will be handy,
YOU'LL be richer far, and I'LL
Be Yankee Doodle dandy!

Free, friendly trade 'twixt you and me
Is best, in my opinion,
For the people of my own great States,
And those in your Dominion.
We both gain by and much enjoy
Social inter-communion,
Then let us crown our amity
With wise Commercial Union!

MISS C.

Agreed!. On the welfare of my folks intent,
My patriotism bids my common sense consent!

SAM.

Then here's my hand, and with it goes my heart,
May no short-sighted views our interests part!

JOHN B.

Bless you, my children ! May prosperity
And happiness be your bright destiny !

(TRIO : " National Anthem. ")

MISS C.— God guide our acts aright !

SAM.— God give our rulers light !

JOHN B.— And grace supply !

ALL

{ In loving sympathy,
Firm-knit fraternity,
Wise-welded unity,
God keep us aye !

TABLEAU :

They all embrace and live happily ever afterwards.

GEOFFREY QUARLES.

