

GRIP

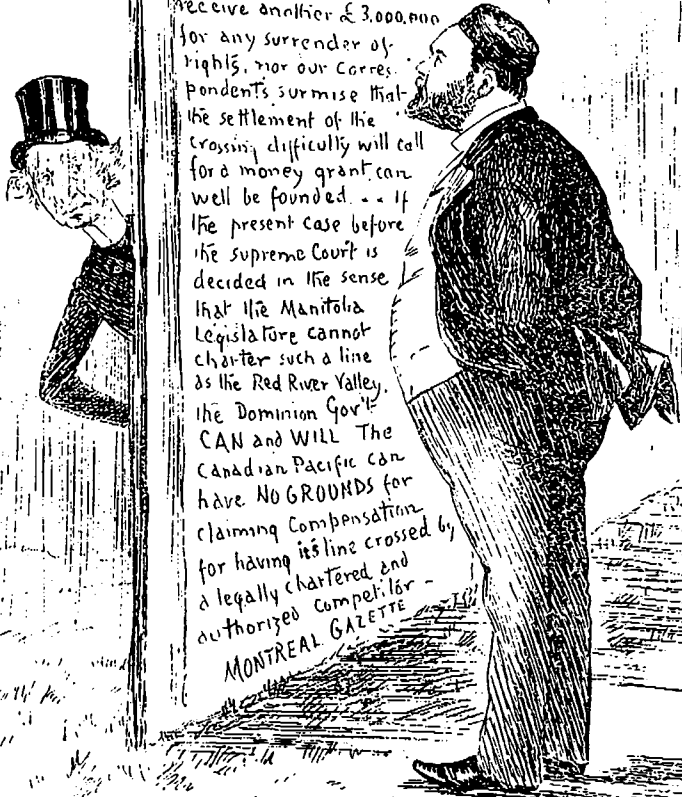
EDITED BY J. W. BRIDGEMAN

GRIP ENG.



FROM A GOVERNMENT ORGAN
 Neither the London Standard's report that the (CPR) Co is to receive another £ 3,000,000 for any surrender of rights, nor our Correspondent's surmise that the settlement of the crossing difficulty will call for a money grant, can well be founded. - If the present case before the supreme Court is decided in the sense that the Manitoba Legislature cannot charter such a line as the Red River Valley, the Dominion Gov't CAN and WILL The Canadian Pacific can have NO GROUNDS for claiming Compensation for having its line crossed by a legally chartered and authorized competitor -

MONTREAL GAZETTE



J. W. Bridgeman

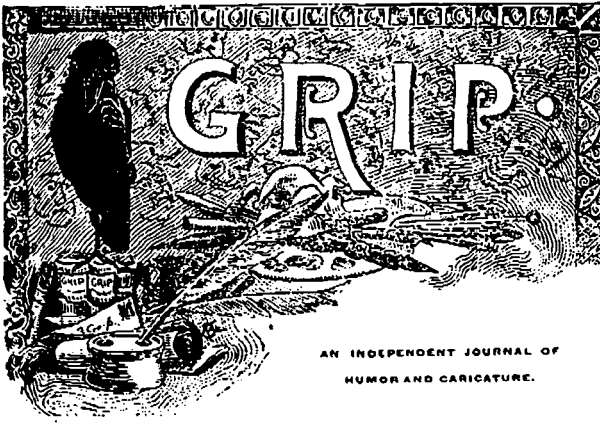
ON HORROR'S HEAD HORRORS ACCUMULATE!

For since the above significant notice appeared in the Montreal Gazette, the Supreme Court has decided in favor of the Manitoba Legislature.

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HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

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BY THE

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Comments on the Customs.



"ONLY WAITING."—For a long time dead silence has been reigning in the world of Canadian politics. The Government people have been doing nothing, and the leaders of the Opposition have been ably assisting them at the task. Although this stagnation is peculiarly hard on GRIP, who is expected to make a passable quality of bricks every week, whether with or without straw, we cannot reasonably complain of it so far as the Government is concerned. The gentlemen of the Cabinet are no doubt silent because, in their view, there is nothing more to be said or done. Under their able guidance, Canada has reached the condition of perfect blessedness, and nothing now remains for her rulers but to take things

easy and enjoy their salaries with grate ul hearts. It is quite another case with the Opposition leaders, however. They know very well that the country is in a miserable plight financially, and that outside of the Cabinet chamber there is depression and discontent everywhere. Nobody knows better than they that the wage-earners of Canada are being ground down with unnecessary and unjust taxation, and that the people generally have begun to see through the fraud of Protection. And yet what are these able gentlemen doing about it? So far as we can find, nothing. We begin to think that, after all, the Oppositionists are not anxious for office. If they were, is it likely that these golden moments would be allowed to pass away unimproved? Have they not noted the fact that in the recent United States campaign, the Democrats carried nearly all the manufacturing centres on the Tariff Reduction plat-

form, and would undoubtedly have met with equal success in the rural districts had the period of discussion been longer? We believe the workmen, and farmers, and all other classes of consumers in Canada, are equally capable of weighing the arguments against Protection, and that at this moment the public mind is in a condition most favorable for a propaganda against that system. Why, then, are not the Anti-Protectionists of the country at work with all the powers of press and platform, educating the masses? What are the leaders waiting for?

A SIGNIFICANT NOTICE.—The announcement in the Montreal Gazette that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company can have no claim for "compensation" in the event of the Red River Valley line being permitted to cross their track is satisfactory. The Gazette is one of the leading organs of the Government, and is popularly supposed to be "inspired" when it speaks on matters of importance. Its reference in this case shows that another grab was quite on the cards—as conjectured in one of our recent cartoons. The decision of the Supreme Court has been meantime given in favor of Manitoba's right to cross the C.P.R. line.

IF Rev. Mr. Wilson didn't "move on" quicker than Justice is doing in his case, we do not wonder that the considerate and gentlemanly police officer lost his patience and rang for the patrol wagon. By the failure of the jury to agree—or to be more precise—by the stubborn refusal of eleven of them to give in to the opinion of the twelfth, who wanted to acquit the constable—the last trial ended in a draw. It is to be done all over again. Before he gets through, Mr. Wilson is likely to know as much about law as he knows about Gospel.

MR. HASLAM deserves special praise for the decided manner in which he "sat upon" the *encore* fiend at the recent concert of the Vocal Society. Except in the case of M. Musin (whose violin solos were really so good that a recall was a matter of course), the persistency of the stampers and hand-clappers was ignored. As there seems to be no prospect that audiences will of themselves come to recognize that it is unmannerly to demand double the amount of performance they have paid for, it just remains for conductors to teach them the lesson. Mr. Haslam did well. *Encore*, Mr. Haslam!



"WITHOUT going into the benefits or otherwise of direct taxation," said the Master of the Dominion Grange, in his address at the annual meeting—and then he slid off into some platitudinarian talk about voting regardless of party, etc., etc. An intelligent dis-

cussion of the benefits or otherwise of indirect taxation, is just what the farmers of Canada ought to have a chance to listen to, and no more appropriate occasion could have been taken than the annual meeting of the Grangers. The Master told them truly that at present Canadian farmers are suffering from class legislation, and he might have put it still more strongly. They are being villainously robbed, along with other non-protected people, and the money is going into the pockets of the clique who have a "pull" at Ottawa.

* * *

WE are sorry to observe a disposition on the part of the public to laugh at the *World's* double-column annexation sensation. Loyalty—true double-distilled, thirty-five per cent. loyalty like the *World's*, surely deserves something better than this. But the average reader has no idea of the labor and trouble involved in getting up first class sensations without any facts to go on.

* * *

THE citizens of Hamilton are jubilant. They have got ahead of Toronto on one point at least. Their new City Hall is approaching completion.

* * *

THE sword of Wallace which is now kept as a relic in one of the Scottish castles, is revered by the Scots as the implement with which the heads of their country's foes were lopped off by the doughty warrior. In just the same way Canadians will cherish the sword of Wallace with which the Combines are to be decapitated next session. It is now being sharpened at Woodbridge.

* * *

ACCORDING to a statement publicly made a few days ago, the Minister of Militia appears to be massing his forces in Quebec. That Province gets about \$100,000 per year more than Ontario for military purposes, and when it comes to paying pensions there is every advantage in being of the French persuasion. There is ground here for a severe reprimand to Sir A. P. Caron, but then how can a cabinet minister be expected to view things evenly when he only wears a single eye-glass?



A TIGHT POSITION.

"SHAV, Bub (*hic*), tell the ladies I ain't 'zactly able to come in to see 'em, but tell 'em not to stan' on ceremony (*hic*), but to come out an' see me (*hic*).

THE HUMORIST AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE.



YESTERDAY morning, I grieve to state, I was the victim of a brutal and unfeeling outrage, perpetrated, I have not the least doubt, by that red-haired and pusillanimous being known to your readers as Smart Alick. I had just taken my place at the table and was proceeding to unfold my napkin, which the hired girl takes a delight in folding up in all sorts of fantastical shapes, when out flew about a cupful of chestnuts! Some of the company snickered and Smart Alick, the brute, burst into a loud ha, ha!

"Yer don't need to work your chin so much this mornin', eh!" said the wretch. "Them's chestnuts enough for one meal."

"Sir," I said with dignity, "if my conversation displeases you there is no reason why you should not change your boarding house. As to the outrage which has given rise to your untimely levity, if I could find out the author of it I'd—I'd—I'd—in the meantime I can only pocket the insult—and the chestnuts."

"He! he!" snickered the saleslady. Is it possible that she can be a party to this truly infamous conspiracy? The worst thing I know against her is that she reads the stories in the *Telegram*.

"Talking about the future of Canada," I observed, "the change of front on the part of R. W. Phipps doesn't at all surprise me. He has long been an authority on trees; it is natural he should be guilty of *treason*. He thinks annexation probable, so do I. We have no voice in the affairs of the Empire. How long shall we remain the Queen's *dumb minions*. Do you tumble, or shall I be compelled to resort to a diagram to quicken your perceptions?"

"We catch on," responded the law student, "you would haul down the flag that's braved, etc. For me, I say long may she wave."

"Let us waive further discussion on the point," I replied. "I spoke merely from a humorous standpoint. There are doubtless those who regard such grave issues as beyond the legitimate sphere of the jester. The future of Canada is to them a no-pun question, eh! In the meantime pass the sausages if you please. Thanks. Possibly some fastidious people *wood chuck* those sausages away if they realized that they were made of ground-hog."

"I don't believe it," said the saleslady. "You just say nasty things like that to make us feel unpleasant."

"Well, what do you suppose sausages are composed of?"

"Why, pork I guess. It tastes like it anyhow."

"And what is pork but hog, and it has to be ground pretty small to get into a sausage, hasn't it?"

"Oh, that's what you meant. I declare, the idea of eating ground-hog nearly made me sick."

"Humph, I dinna see muckle intill't," said the Scotchman. "It's just like maist o' your feckless eediotic jokes, man; it takes a Scotchman for real genuine humor."

"Ha, ha, ha!" general burst of laughter.

"Ye may laugh, but it's the truth. I quite agree wi' my guid frien' David Boyle, that the Irish and the English loons wha' ca' themselves humorists are no a bit funny, an' that for a downright guid hearty laugh ye must tak' Scotch fun, whilk dings them a'. Whaur, for instance, will ye fin' the man no a Scotchman wi' the wounerfu'



THE NIGGER IN ONTARIO'S WOODPILE.

MOWAT.—“Hi, you there! Drop that timber. And, what's more, square up for all you've taken in the past.”

humorous poer of the late David Kennedy? An' whur's the funny poet in England or Canada that can beat this bit from Robbie Burns:

“Hech, wullie-wallie muckle thrawkie,
Blink-bonnie aiblins unco pawkie;
A fashie wean awa' wi' Jockie an' wadna gang,
Twa blyther mutchkins winna balk ye forbye 'twas wrang.

“Hech, hech! man, isna' that guid? There's humor for ye!”

“You seem to enjoy it so, I suppose we must give you the benefit of the doubt.”

“The verse is undoubtedly humorous,” said the law student, who has begun to set up for a literary authority since he joined the Legal and Literary Society, “but not in any respect witty. Now the essential difference between wit and humor is——”

And furthermore this deponent sayeth not.

A RINK LAY.

THEY have flooded the rink,
And the novice will think,
As she gets 'Tom to buckle
Her straps,
It would be a good plan
To ask this young man
If he'd help her around a
Few laps.

As Tom *can't* object—
He could hardly expect
To decline, as a matter
Of course.
So they start on the trip,
And losing her grip,
She sits down with much vigor
And force.

She's as heavy as lead,
And his face is quite red
With trying to keep her
From falling.
It is getting quite late,
And her talk seems to grate
On his nerves in a way
Quite appalling.

'Tis needless to state,
They skate and they skate
Till Tom is quite ready
To drop.
And he groans in despair,
For his best girl is there,
But this one don't know when
To stop.

E. A. C.

HOW I WAS SHAVED.

FIRST my head he firmly seized it,
Turned it quickly to and fro;
Then my Romau nose he squeezed it
Till the tears began to flow.

Next a towel took he—wettish,
Trailed it right across my eyes,
Heeding not remonstrance frettish,
While his apron strings he ties.

Then his razor dull he stroppeh,
Stroppeh it with all his might;
While his heated brow he moppeth—
Then he grasps my chin full tight.

Lathers be my face, indented
By the knuckles of his hand—
Fills my mouth with Pears' (unscented)—
Listening to the passing band.

Asks me questions—quite a hundred—
Do I think that we were right?
Or has some one grossly blundered
In the Fishery Question Fight?

While I try to answer kindly
That I really do not know,
Down my wearied throat, quite blindly,
Feel I all the lather go!

Then he smileth like a demon:
“I can help you, sir, I'm sure;
Take this box of Epsiremon,
Every ailment it will cure.”

But I rise, unheeding censure,
Far from barber shop I fly,
And if there again I venture,
Well—I shall deserve to die.

B.

The diminutive of *fame* is *famine*.

A poor speculation—The poet's *corner*.



WOMAN'S INTUITION.

MISS HIGHLIFE.—“There's Mrs. Topswell wearing a short seal-skin sacque. They're becoming quite fashionable, aren't they?”

MISS NEWRICH.—“Yes; so are short purses, my dear.”

OPEN LETTER TO GENERAL HARRISON.

REGINA, N.W.T., Dec. 14.

My Dear General:



RESPECTED SIR,—Your idea about completing the conquest of Canada, which was begun by your grandfather, by a purely commercial deal, has stirred up this portion of the Dominion into a regular boiling cauldron. I've talked with all our prominent men, and they say it can't be done. Our greatest legislator told me that he would tear the American Eagle up the back, and riddle the flag so that the ghost of Barbara Fritchie wouldn't know it, if you proposed to buy Canada. He was drunk when he said it, and I do not believe he would attempt it sober. Peace has spoils, as well as war, and I am going to tell you how you can manage to own Canada without rousing the bitter opposition you would have to meet if you attempt to get it in a lump.

Your old grandfather had a pretty easy time, marching through Western Ontario with only Tecumseh and a few Indians, Proctor and a handful of raw Englishmen who didn't know the country, to oppose him. You would find it a more formidable undertaking to wrest Canada from the Regina Blazers. These Blazers are men of might, descended from the old Vikings, with the best fighting blood of Canada in their veins, and they say you can never have Canada while they are able to point a gun—and they mean it, too. There is only one thing they care more for than the Dominion, and that is scrip. You might possibly buy them over by giving them all the scrip they want. You will now understand that you must use a little strategy. My proposition is this, and it is not the outcome of a champagne supper, nor the sequel to a banquet. My ideas in relation to this great question of Annexation are the offspring of a cool English brain. What you want to do, Harrison, is to buy Canada in sections and half-sections, and inside of a year you will own every foot of land outside of towns and cities. Even in large cities like Montreal, Toronto and Regina, you can secure quite a foothold, if you pay enough for it. After you have bought all the farms in the Dominion, and secured what city property you can, you might buy all the officials who are badly used by the Ottawa Government. Then issue an edict forbidding the United States to export a dollar's worth into Canada, and then begin ejecting your tenants here, and you have the conquest of Canada in your own hands. The plan is practicable, and will save any further Commercial Union agitation. I think you better begin buying farms around Regina. I have 640 acres of the best wheat land in the world, all fenced and treed, and will sell it to you cheap for cash. I am an Englishman, but this is no Lord Sackville West game, as I can prove by referring you to all the leading men in our town. We Englishmen are getting disgusted with native born Canadians. They are hard people to civilize, and do not seem to appreciate our efforts to help them. I offered to represent them

in the Legislature when I first came here, and they really chose a common Canadian farmer in preference to an Englishman fresh from the old soil. You seem to manage the Negro and Irish problem very well, and may be able to control these half-civilized natives. If you find them too troublesome, get Pasteur to introduce some epidemic among them and kill them off. I think the best thing you can do is to take the train and come to Regina—come direct to my house. The Reginians will think you are on a friendly visit, and will banquet you, and you will have the best time you ever had in your life. They like to make speeches, and it will give them a good chance to expose their eloquence before the man who is President-elect of the United States. Of course when you go home you will tell your people *who* responded to the toasts, and what they said, and thus give them a world-wide reputation. Don't go to the expense of bringing a stenographer. We will furnish one free of charge. If you drop a line to Van Horne of the C. P. R. he will give you a reduction in car fare, and a compartment to yourself. Nothing mean about Van Horne. My wife would be pleased to have Mrs. Harrison come with you, and will get up a little informal reception for her, and will introduce her to all the first ladies in Regina. It will give her some pointers about holding receptions at the White House.

Drop a line to me, post office box No. —. Regina, N. W.T., a week before you start, and I will meet you at the station.

Yours with respect.

U. F. L.

P. S.—It shall not cost you a cent while you are here.

U.—

ORFUL.

"IN the type-writing contest at Toronto, last August, Miss M. E. Orr was awarded the gold medal for the championship of the world."—*Daily paper*. Quite proper if Miss Orr doesn't deserve the *Medal d'Or*, who does, anyway?



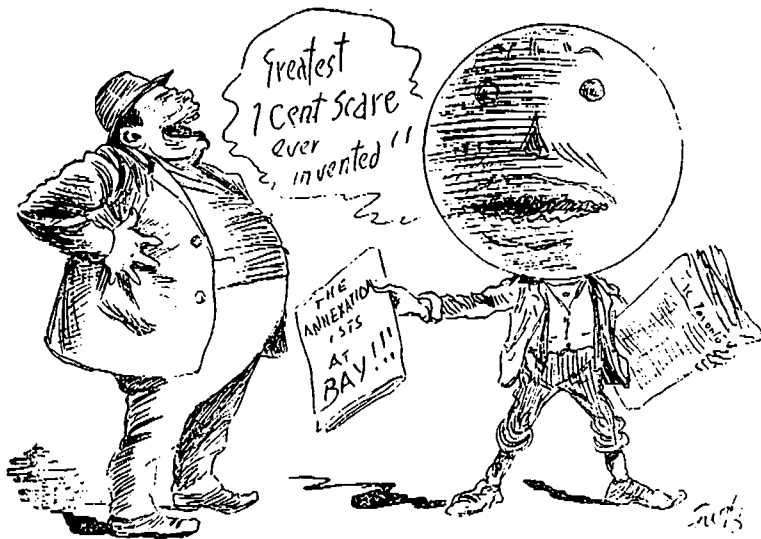
A NEW RESOLUTION.

JACK.—"Bob, a new year is about to dawn upon us. I'll stump you to swear off."

BOB.—"I've done so."

JACK.—"Nonsense. You've just had a glass of brandy."

BOB.—"Not against drinking; I've sworn off against swearing off."



THE "WORLD" SCARING THE CANADIAN CITIZEN INTO FITS—OF LAUGHTER.

ANNEXATIONISTS AT BAY!

STARTLING DISCLOSURE OF A NEFARIOUS PLOT TO DESTROY CANADA!

AND HAND THE COUNTRY OVER TO THE STATES!

The World's Sensation Discounted.

THE existence of a plot on the part of the Toronto *World*, in collusion with Finance Minister Foster and the President of the Manufacturers' Association, to ruin this Dominion and drive Canadians into annexation with the States, has long been suspected. We are now in a position to uncover the rascality; and thank heaven we can do so in time to save our country. If this sensation has the effect of selling an extra number of this paper, we can't help it. No selfish consideration shall prevent us from doing our duty. The facts, as our reporter learned them, are briefly these: The vile plot was first hatched about 1877, in the back parlor of a low saloon at Ottawa, where the three arch-traitors were drinking together. Foster was taking lemonade through a straw. The meeting was the result of a prior confab, in which each of the worthies had discovered that the others had a special object to serve in ruining Canada. What these objects were we may in due time explain. Enough that they met and formed a plot, which for cold, calculating fiendishness has few parallels in history. It is our purpose in the present article to give a brief outline of the scheme. As a preliminary step, the people of the country were to be grossly humbugged by speeches, pamphlets, etc., calculated to make them believe that a high tariff was a benefit to the consumer. The *World* man said this would be perfectly feasible, as he knew by experience that the public could be got to believe anything. This "educating" of the masses would, it was confidently calculated, upset the revenue tariff Government at the then approaching general election, and Foster undertook to worm himself into the Cabinet that should be subsequently formed. Once in the Cabinet, he would in some way manage to secure the portfolio of Finance, and if the tariff were not found to be well calculated to effect the purpose of the plotters, the necessary changes would be

made. Meanwhile the President of the Manufacturers' Association was to be busy throughout the country instilling into the minds of the people the lie that high tariffs make high wages and cheap goods. Having secured control of the public funds, the public debt of the country was to be run up above \$300,000,000, and all sorts of extravagance and mismanagement were to be indulged in, so that the revenue from the high tariff would be dissipated and a deficit take its place. Before many years, it was calculated, the people would begin to sweat. Short work, low wages—wages it was agreed should be kept down by the free admission of pauper labor from abroad—narrow markets and hard times would intensify the sweating process, but there was to be no let up on the pressure. The ultimate and inevitable result would be that, as an act of self-preservation, the people of Canada would go in for annexation bodily. When this crisis was, in the opinion of the plotters, approaching, the "old flag" was to be waved with unusual zeal, and a special line of super-loyal articles were to appear in the *World*.

This in brief is the plot. Our readers can judge for themselves whether such a plot has or has not been carried out. We will wait and see how many extra papers this Tremendous Exposure will sell, and if it strikes us as a good business spec. when the newsboys report, we will follow it up with more of the same sort.

A SERIOUS DRAWBACK.

MUGGINS looked in on Brown the other night after the concert, and found him with his coat off, and the table and floor strewn with dictionaries, rules of pronunciation, Hobbs on Pronouncing, etc., while Brown himself was standing in the middle of the floor with his teeth set, and an air of determination on his face. Said air was blue.

"What the deuce is the matter with you, old man?" quoth Muggins. "Have you got 'em, or has she thrown you over?"

"Neither," answered Brown, "I am only trying to pronounce this infernal combination of letters, R-a k-o-c-z-y. I intend to call on her to-morrow, and how am I to pull through if I can't get out that jaw-breaker successfully?"

BRUDDER WHITE'S PHILOSOPHY.

DE man wot sugges' dat it takes a sus class head to do a sartin job, an den proposes hisself fur dat job, am goin' to get on if gall counts.

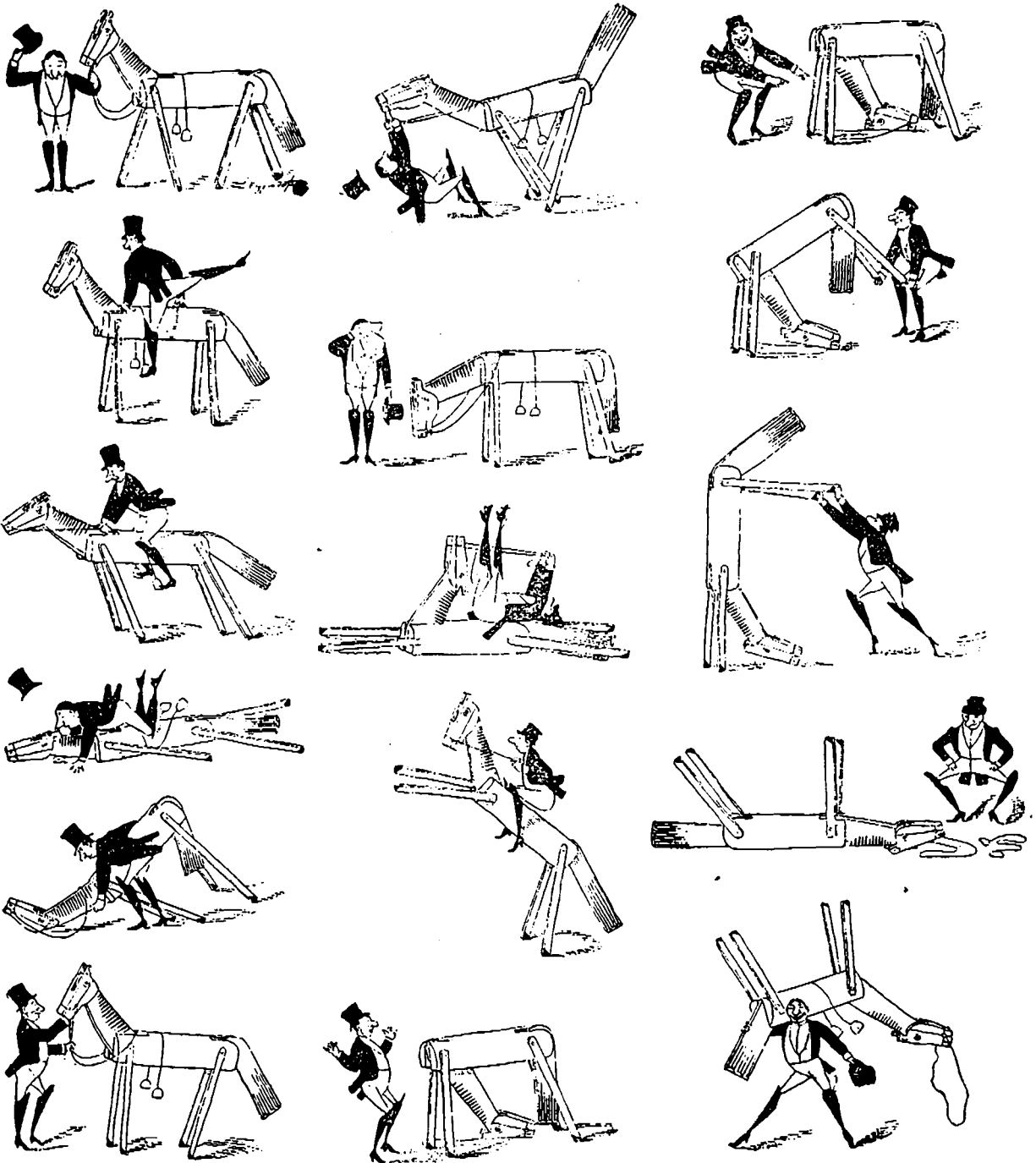
Breddern, we must help ourselves. De man wot does all de prayin' an' expec's de Lawd to do all de work, am goin' to hev a hard time dis wintah to scratch for fuel.

I aint sartin but wot de biggest toad in de puddle am not sometimes de bigges' fraud in de puddle.

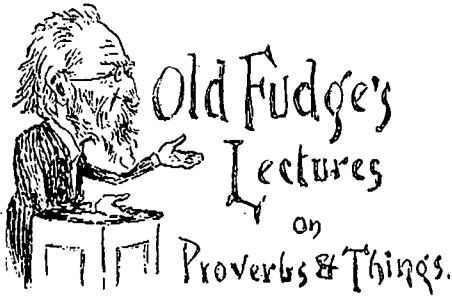
Allus bear in mind dat although de grasshopper takes bigger jumps, de land-shark gets dar all the same.

The poet's s(corner)—*Everybody*.

The neglect of the hire education of women may account for the scarcity of servant girls.



MARVELLOUS FEATS OF HORSEMANSHIP IN SANTA CLAUS' CIRCUS.



ANCESTORS.

It is a very comical thing, but almost everybody has had ancestors, some near and a great many "far, far away"—men and women, and according to some very learned scientists, apes and mollusks and protoplasm and molecules—so that ancestrally, about one million seven hundred years ago, our forefathers were expert in climbing trees and firing cocoa-nuts. This was on the evolution of the higher instincts. Away back still our ancestors had no eyes, and in fact only pulsed, as it were. But I believe there are no reliable specimens of this period. In this learned lecture I propose to limit my observations, and I hereby remark that digging up one's ancestors, as it were, is rather a curious archaeological study, because we might possibly find a sepulchre that would want a good whitening; it is a most difficult thing to cover coal tar—therefore, I say, limit your researches and don't go too far back. Society does not ask you to build a tomb over the man who in your line of ancestry was an expert in picking locks. Is it not despicable, my heraldic seeking friends, to notice the anxiety some people manifest to trace back their pedigree to William the Conqueror, or say Alexander the Great, although one stole a kingdom and the other died drunk? Why, the grave-digger and washer-woman were better ancestors than Alexander, who caused Persepolis to be burnt at the instigation of a harlot, and stabbed his most intimate friend in a fit of drunken frenzy. And as to William and Matilda, well, perhaps the less said the better. Ah, my dear William Shakespeare, the "uneasiness of the head" comes sometimes from other sources than the "crown." But enough; we cannot choose our ancestors; we must take them as they come or rather as they go, for all our ancestors have bid "farewell—a long farewell to all their greatness." Remember Saul and the old man that came up covered with a mantle at the incantation of the witch of Endor. Profligate sons would not like to see their departed sires who bartered everything in heaven and earth to make them gentlemen. I say, never mind if your ancestors never had a star blazing on their breast. Be satisfied if they were honest and true, for noble titles have often been attached to ignoble histories, and remember "An honest man's the noblest work of God." And once more, *nota bene* that although you are not responsible for your ancestors, you are more or less for your heirs. You don't think so? Well, don't then. Smother your evil habits but don't smother the babies; let the heathen do that. Evil habits run on into the generations, so be careful of your "heirs, executors and assigns," and remember that a good name, which you may bequeath, is much better than a miserable title which the very devil may flaunt. And remember also that the poet is only true as you give him a chance to interpret his own statement about "the evil living after men and the good being interred with their

bones." Absolutely (and make a note of it, I say absolutely), the good is as immortal as the evil, and should give you much greater satisfaction, for you and your Matilda may add to the greatness of the coming times, and your antetype in the upward gradations may add lustre to the type when your greatness is departed and you too are with your very dusty ancestors.

A JUVENILE JOKER.

THE future Canadian nation is not to be without its funny-man attachment. The coming Burdette is in training, as witness:—

GANANOQUE, Ont., Dec. 18, 1888.

DEAR SIR,—I send you a few jokes. If you think them worthy of publication please publish them, that is, if you receive contributions:

LANDLADY.—"Any steak, sir?"

BUTCHER.—"Yes. Some very tender steak."

LANDLADY.—"Oh! it doesn't matter whether it's tender or not. I keep a boarding-house."

"There," said a husband during a wrangle with his better half, "You always want to have the last word. Why won't you let me end it when you commenced it?"

"Indeed," answered the wife, "you'd end it too quick."

"George," she asked when they were out walking, "How is it you take no interest in the shop windows w pass?"

But George didn't answer. He knew about every shop had a sign advertising "Oysters."

I am fourteen years old.

CHAS. O'NEILL, Gananoque, Ont.

P.S.—If these are accepted I will try some more.

C. O.



A JEWEL OF HONESTY.

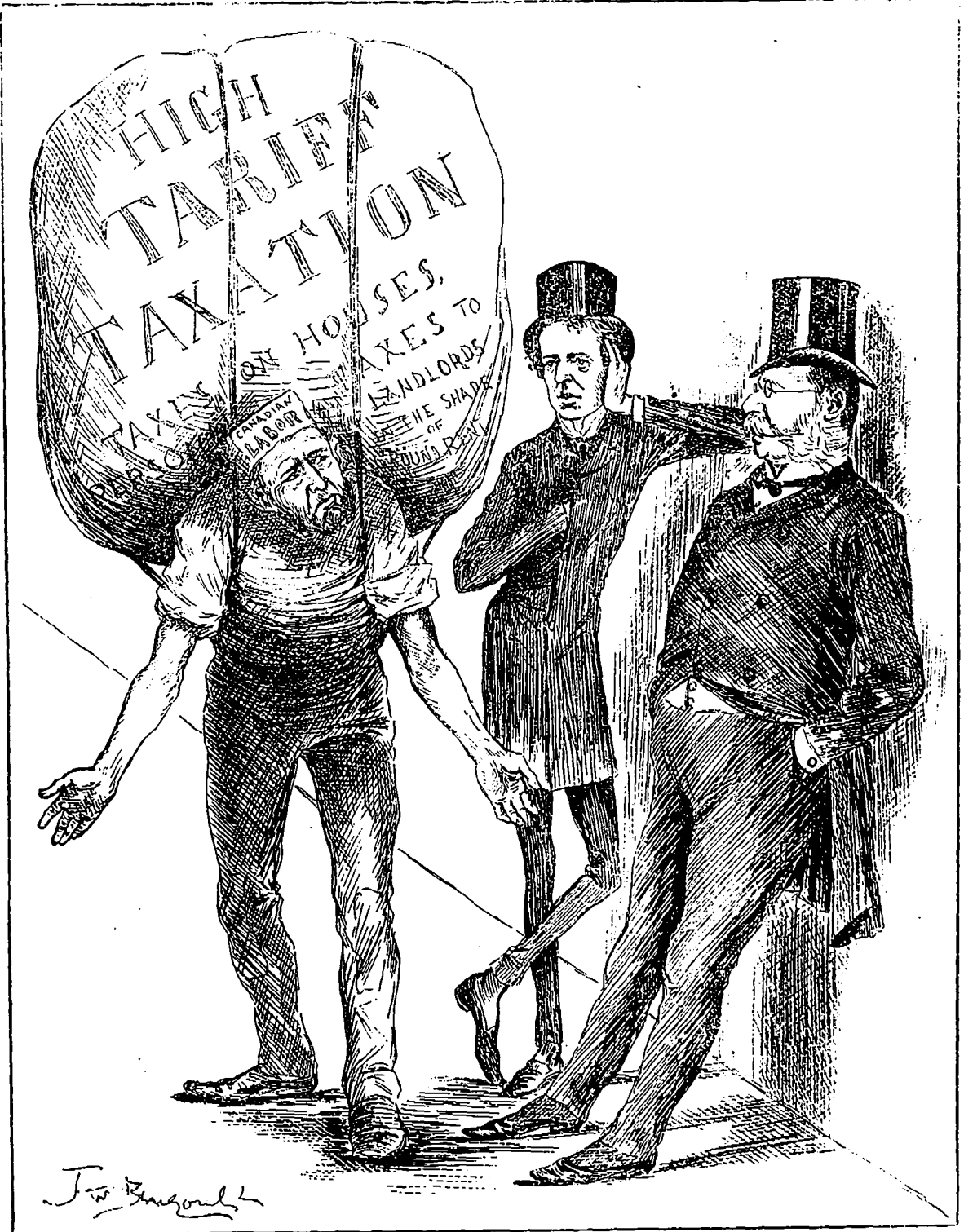
CALLER.—"Is Mr. Jones in?"

THE NEW SERVANT MAID (*A jewel of honesty from the country*).

—"Yes, sir; but he's not well. He can't see you."

CALLER.—"Ill, is he? I hope it's nothing serious."

THE NEW SERVANT MAID.—"Not very serious; he's drunk, sir."



“ONLY WAITING.”

CANADIAN LABOR—“What are you professional statesmen idling round here for? Don't you see that I require help?”
 THE LIBERAL LEADERS.—“Yes, and we feel for you sincerely. But we can't do anything yet. We're waiting for John A.'s funeral to go by.”



PLUCKY TO THE LAST.

(FROM THE SIDNEY, AUSTRALIA, BULLETIN.)

SPORTING PERSON:—"Well, Ned, licked again, eh?"
 'ANLAN:—"Licked! Not any. As long as there's a penny of gate money to be divided equally, Ned Hanlan will never be licked!"

THE WICKED EARL AND THE VILLAGE MAID— A METRICAL ROMANCE.

(Continued from issue before last.)

Last week this queer romantic tale
 To show up in its place did fail;
 I don't know why, but I've no doubt
 In printer's slang 'twas "crowded out."

CHAPTER III.

THE RIGHTFUL HEIR.

'Twas easy at a glance to see
 That Roderick was of high degree,
 Such graceful air and lordly mein
 Are never in plebeians seen.

And once an ancient gypsy dame
 Was heard to audibly exclaim,
 "Let Bertram's haughty Earl beware,
 For yonier stands the Rightful Heir."

The business of a Rightful Heir
 Is one for which I should not care;
 The cash returns are mighty slim,
 And Roderick found it so with him.

The West Toronto Junction lot
 (Two-hundred frontage) which I've got—
 I would not give that lot to be
 A Rightful Heir of high degree.

Not even though a gypsy crone
 Would say those words in solemn tone
 And work by some mysterious charm,
 A strawberry mark on my left arm.

The factories rising all around
 Enhance that West Toronto ground;
 If I would sell it off next year,
 I'd make a thousand dollars clear!

I think that vainly you might try
 To cash a gypsy prophecy;
 Few usurers, I apprehend,
 On such security would lend.

So Roderick, although proud was poor,
 His lot he hardly could endure.
 But let us leave him with his girl,
 And tell about the Wicked Earl.

CHAPTER IV.

THE WICKED EARL.

His hair and beard were black as night,
 His countenance a perfect fright,
 His forehead wore a hideous frown
 As he went riding up and down.

He had a score of hired men,
 "Retainers," as they called them then,
 Whose duty 'twas to come and go
 Whene'er the Earl remarked, "What, ho!"

These fellows wore peculiar suits,
 Buff jerkins and huge leather boots;
 Shields, spears and swords they always bore
 In readiness for deeds of gore.

I do not know why it may be
 That the "retainer" industry,
 Erstwhile so flourishing a trade,
 In modern times has quite decayed.

This fact I have suggested to
 The statistician, Mr. Blue;
 The reason doubtless will appear
 Set forth in his report next year.

Earl Bertram had a cheerful knack
 Of stretching people on the rack,
 And one of his most frequent jokes
 Was that of shooting common folks.

Provisions he would never buy,
 His cast'e's larder to supply;
 His gang would scour the country round
 And scoop in everything they found.

I can't but think this wicked man
 Pursued a most short-sighted plan;
 'Tis easier in every way
 To run up bills and never pay.

The Earl had married several wives,
 Who led out brief unhappy lives;
 As soon as one was underground
 For a successor he looked round.

One day he had sweet Flora seen
 A-dancing on the village green.
 "Now, by my halidom," quoth he,
 "Yon winsome maid my bride shall be."

And now we'd best allow, perhaps,
 A space of period to elapse.
 Eh? Well, if you are so inclined,
 Seeing it's you I do not mind.

(To be continued.)

SANTA CLAUS. Well, what of it? So does a cat.—*Iittsburg Chronicle.*

THE gourmand's ailment is not unlikely to prove meat for repentance.—*Whitehall Times.*

A STOOL pigeon is not the kind that makes good Christmas pot-pie.—*The Toothpick.*

IF a man sits at a banquet too long he is quite apt to become dish-potatious.—*New Haven News.*

TOWN booms that were picked before they became ripe are rotting in various parts of the country.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

WHAT a beautiful complexion! Every lady can have this said of her by using Jelly of Cucumber and Roses. Try it; druggists keep it. William A. Dyer & Co., Montreal.

WHEN does evolution go backward? On Thank-giving and Christmas days, when the turkey ceases to be and festive man becomes the gobbler.—*Railway Advocate.*

Each little boy and little girl
D with now grow wondrously devout;
Each little brain is in a whirl
To get the best church festival route.
—*Baltimore American.*

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. 25c. a bottle.

TAKING NO CHANCES.—Groom—(to bride; they are waiting for the minister)—“Hain’t I better skip out and see what is the matter, my dear? The minister should have been here twenty minutes ago.” Bride—“No, George; you stay right where you are.”—*Harper's Bazar.*

PITY the poor man who is doomed to make a super-heated guy of himself dressed up as Santa Claus. He knows better, you know, and he only does it to please the children.—*Boston Courier.*

AT the Toronto Opera House during Christmas week the children will have a pleasant treat as well as the adults in the “Kindergarden,” a play brimful of fun. The Brooklyn *Journal* says:—“The company that is presenting this budget of wholesome merriment is said to be an excellent one. There have been times when we have felt like reaching up, clutching the jodel by the neck, and wiping up many dusty thoroughfares with it. But not Eddie Giguere's jodel. If it is a healthy, hearty, clear-from-your-boots laugh that you're waiting for, by all means and see the “Kindergarden.”

THE country editor now throws out hints to his subscribers that a present of a turkey for Christmas would be acceptable, while his city brother has to content himself by going to the market and smelling some old, tough patriarch of the flock, already half spoiled, and selling at eight cents a pound.—*Hotel Mail.*

NEVER mind, ladies. The Christmas shopping doesn't come out of your pockets. It is your annual opportunity to get more than even with the men folks.—*Hartford Post.*

MISS JESSIE ALEXANDER, B.E., is announced to give an evening of humorous and dramatic readings at Association Hall on Thursday evening, January 3. It is always a pleasure to hear Miss Alexander, whose natural style is refreshing when contrasted with that of the average professional elocutionist. On this occasion the audience will have an opportunity of judging of the progress made by this gifted young lady since her appearance last year, the interval, as is generally known, having been devoted to hard study abroad. No doubt a very large and enthusiastic house will greet her.

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Judge—“Then it is my painful duty to sentence you to work as a lineman for the Overhead Wire Electric company until you are dead, dead, dead.”
Murderer faints.—*Detroit Free Press.*

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W. H. BANKS,
Assistant Secretary.

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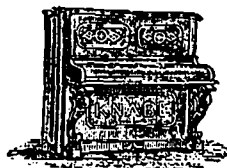
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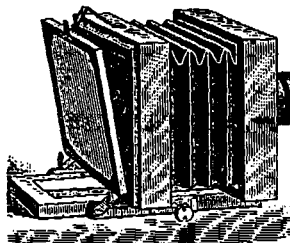
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