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PREFACE.


"the many-headed monster," both with pen and pencil. And here he would say a word to his many and valued correspondents: If all their contributions have not been inserted, the Cynic has none the less appreciated the kindly intentions which prompted the authors. It may have happened that more than one have experiencel disappointment, while others with the bashfulness which always accompanies truc merit, have been deterred from contributing through fear of rejection. To such, Diogeves would say, "Discard your matcaise honte and emerge from your modest seclusion. The veil of anonymity will conceal your blushes."

Aptness of expression, the cariosa felicitas of language, is in most cases, the sure result of constant practice, Style, which is simply the dress of thought, is a seconclary, though undoubtedly, an important consideration, and may safely be left by unpractised writers, to be elaborated by the pen of the Cynic. He hereby, willingly agrees to re-set, if necessary, any literary gens that may be sent to him, provided of course, that they are really worth the trouble.

Before concluding this brief Preface, the Cynic returns his sincere thanks to the Newspaper Press of the Dominion. The warm commendations that have been lavishly bestowed upon him by all classes of Canadian journals, have done much to establish him in his present position. Their cordial approval of the tone of his articles, and their frequent quotations from his columns, have amply repaid him for many weary hours of necessary editorial labour, Lastly, the Cynic would be guilty of vile ingratitude, if he omitted on the present occasion, to acknowledge the constant care, and attention of his Printer. From the first number to the present one, he has taken the liveliest interest in this publication, and has spared no time or trouble, to render it a model of typographical excellence.

With these few words, Diogenes salutes all his readers throughout the Dominion, and retires contentedly to the privacy of his Tub.

MORE KHYME IHAN REASON.

here appeared in the Datily Nezes a few days ago, some verses written for it by W. T. Urquhart, and entitled, "A May Day Song." As the effusion is destitute of all poetical merit, and every line limps along on a different number of feet, the Cynic feels that any quotation from it must be rather "rough" on his readers. But he has a purpose in view; and he therefore, though reluctantly, quotes the following spavined stanza:-
"Then don your golden sandals, firest month of the year,
Wipe from the face of Nature each ling'ring April fear,
Come with music and sunshine, with garlands fresh and gay;
While we in joyous idylls echo the praise of May.
Now, this rapturous invocation might occasionally, in England, be not wholly inappropriate; but in Canada on May-Day, sandals would be unseasonable; and garlands rather costly, as they could nowhere be procured but from the conservatory of Dives.

These conventional praises of May-Day, are, accordingly, mere echoes of old English songs, and, it is this stereotyped untruthfulness, and lack of originality,-this sickening repetition of traditionary phrases, that has caused poetry to be commonly regarded as sentimental cant, and a mere elegant amusement. The wise and witty author of the "Biglow Papers," has written as follows of MayDay in America, and Diogeses commends the passage to the attention of the Bard of the Daily Nows. After stating that the early reading of some men, who are poetically inclined,
"Gits kind 0 " worked into their heart and herde"
so that they dare not hazard on paper a single thought of their own,
"Nor heva ieclin ; if it doesn't smack, O' wut some critter chose to feel, "way back,"

## Lowell continues :

"This makes 'cm talk o' daisies, harks an' things Ez though we'd nothing here that blows an' singsThis makes cm think our fust $o^{\prime}$ May is May, Which'taint, for all the allmanicks can say.
O litule city-gals ! don't never go it
Blind on the word o' noospaper or poet:
They're apt to puff, an' May. Day scldon looks Up in the country ez it doos in books;
They're no more like than hornets' nests an' hives Or printed sarmons be to holy lives.
I with my trousers perched on cowhide boots
Tuggin' my foundered feet out by the roots, Her seen $C^{c}$ come to fling on A pril's hearse Your muslin nosegays from the milliners, Puzzlin to find dry ground, your queen to choose An' dance your throat sore in morocker shoes."
ZEKE TRIMLBLE HAS, AN INTERVIEW WITH A CELEBRATED MICHIGANJER.
Deer old Di, -
Fur some time past thare hez bin much talk about Chandler \& his speech to Washington, \& e\% yure korrispondent is into thee kapitol of Ameriky, $i$ bev had a interview with him. Flee bords in cheep lodgins onto, thee garret flat of a five-story broun stone house, with a English basement, on Pensylvany Avenoo. I was introjused to him bi a
mutual frend. Thee furst words hee sed to me wua, " Zeke, i hev hurd of you be4; you air konnected with Drogenes, that grate Kanajun Punch, thee paper wich is down on awl" humbugs \& shams, wharever they appear." "Chandy," sez. $i$, (i always call him thus fur short) " i am prowd to call miself thee Forrin korrispondent of that small but enterprisin jurnal." Sez he, "what do youre kuntrymen think of mi speech onto thee Alabamy question? Do they tremble at thee vociferousness of its bellycose tones?" "Not much," sez i, "wee air used to airthquakes into our kuntry." Sez i, "you hev made a mistaik, Ef you had read Morgin's lives of illustrecous Kanajuns, or ef you hed bot a book of thair fotograffs bi Notman, you wood never hev kummitted thee mistaiks which abound in your speech." Sez i, "wee air a small peeple, but, ef thare is goin to be any handin over of our kuntry, we hev maid up our minds to hev sumthing to say in it, \& we air 2 smart \& hev livd $\geqslant$ close to thee line 45, to swap ourselves off fur sich a small thing as thee Alabamy klaims." Sez i, "ef you air a goin to figger, we kin beet you awl hollo onto this point. Thare is Galt. Thare aint enny finanseers into the United Staits like him. Hee balansd thee akounts of Kanady fur sum time, ontil thee akounts balansd him, $\mathcal{S}$ then he turned member fur Sherbrooke, of wich offis he hez taken a life lease; $\&$ thare is John Rose, -he has giv up law intirely \& took to thee finance biz. Hee carries a slate into bis pockit awl thee time, \& when thare aint no biz doin, he's awlus praktisin rule of 3 sums. Purhaps thare aint no finanseer livin, wich can hold a kandle to him. Hee hez jest demonstrated to our kuntry that thee interkoloneel lone kood be used up better sum uther way. Thare is a impreshun amungst us that this rale road wor inventid fur the purpose of byin the Grand Trunk Road from Richmond to Queebeck. Every boddy noes this will pay when thee kuntry gets settled-tho it don't now. But to borry fur a raleroad \& to git Johnny Bull to guarantee thee debt, $\&$ then to spend thee munny fur sumthing else, wood purhaps, in thee most reefind circles be kolld a breech of faith, but those kind of things air kommon to Ottywa. Thay air used to breeches up thair. Thare is much thet is beutiful \& affectin in this Impeerial guarantee biz, aneeway. To see a muther goin security fur a grate big sun, after hee has bin into biz fur sich a long time, is a very affectin site. Bul i hev wanderd frum our subjekt."
"Chandy," sez i, "thee peeple in mi kuntry, aint much skared at the blowin of yourself and Train. When thare's anee handin over to bee done, i guess wee will hev to bee konsulted $\mathbb{E}$," sez i, "ef thares aneething that wood disgust Kanajuns with yoor grate $\mathbb{S}$, nobil kuntry, it is jest such speeches as you hev got rid of.:"

Sez i, "thee peeple into Kanady air jest like other folks; you may lead them bi reason \& intellechtoaal convickshun, but wee kant be drov on this point. Thare is but I opinion. about thee Allybamy clames:-We air willin to see old Ingland do whots rite $\mathbb{E}$ fare, but wee aint willin to see her bullied. But," sez i, "Chandy, you dont represent thee Amerikin peeple $\mathbb{E}$ wee no it. Amungst sich a lot of peeple thare must be sum fools. \& you hev struk ile in this line. Enny kuntry wich bosts of a majority of legislaturs like you, wood bust in no time. You air only fit to be a member of thee Queebeck Legislatur, wich to a grait extent is a munky-sho, \& i should like to see you, \& George Francis in hi posishuns thare. Shovo, Dunkin \& Wemer wood bee glad to hev you both onto thee government side of thee hows. Thay air divin fur sum exsitement."

Heer Chandy got nad \& i konkludid mi interview with this trooly grate nan $\mathcal{E}$ returnd to mi bordin hows.

Yours, to conmand,
Zeke Trimble.


EVIDENT.
Fair Creature : UVE-The dress is very pretty-a nd AT A DISTANCE, SO YERY PICTURESQUE."
Young Claymore, (who prides himself upon his personal appearame, -Y-a-s; but it requires a good figure TO SET IT OFF PROPERLY!"

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## seasonable suggestions.

## Dear Diogenes,-

Those saturnine souls who look daggers,-though they do not use them-upon such badinage as is found in our seriocomic journals, and, who deem a smile high treason against the solemn issues of life, and a hearty laugh certain perdition, are not asked to read this communication. It is intended for those genial and humorous natures with a sportive erudition, like some of your contributors, who might adopt for their motto the saying of one of the merriest wise men in Ancient Rome: "Quid vetat ridentem dicere verum?" If I remember rightly, one of your most genial writers upon one occasion, divided the distracted church into Attitudinarians, Latitudinarians and Platitudinarians. During the present week, what with the Synod and the Pulpit, we have had platitudes "ad nauseam et ad infinitum." I could not help thinking, that it would not be amiss if the Vestrymen or Churchwardens would make some such an arrangement with their ministers, as Sir Roger de Coverly did with the clergyman of his parish, i.c., present them with all the good sermons that have been printed in English and get them to digest them into a series, that they might follow one another naturally and make a continued system of practical divinity. If the sermons could be announced previously,-thus, " Jereny Taylor or Hooker will preach next Sunday morning; Dr. Barrow or Stillingfleet in the afternoon; Dr. Pearson and Butler in the evening,"-we should not see so many elderly
people asleep, nor so miny young people staring indecently about them to the annoyance of those who shew thenselves desirous of listening, even to mediocrists.

Another complaint I have to make, touches the slovenly manner in which our beautiful hiturgy is read. In Wright and Halliwell's "Reliquia Antiqua, " there is a Macaronic couplet, denouncing three modes of mangling the church service:-
"Eclesia tres sunt qui scrvitum male fallunt
Momylers; forcyphers, over leapers non bene psallunt:"
"Our service is spoilt by three sorts of its lippers,
The trippers-the clippers-the impudent skippers.
Archdeacon Peter, of Blois, says of the nimble-tongued gentry of his day, who despatched the Mass with the expedition of starving trencher-men :-"There are some, who, when they begin a verse, think the time endless, 'till they get to its close, and so run the words into one another in their hurry, that in the honeycomb of the law remains neither wax nor honey. Their lips are in the chant, but their heart is in the platter."

Should any one of the "trippers, clippers, and skippers" read this letter, let him lay it to his heart, and, in future, be more reverent in the reading of the English Church service. As it is now read by them, I am forced to the conclusion, that they are either incapable of understanding the words, insensible to the beauty of the language, or indifferent to its spirit. Hoping they will "reform it altogether,"

I am, Dear Diogenes,
Yours, fraternally,
Socrates.

## MISERY IN HIGH PLACES.

Alas! Diocenes is called upon to weep with the great! The Autocrat of the Finance Department at Ottawa-the Big Wig of the Treasury Board-the Hero of a Thousand Audits and the recipient of a Thousand English Pounds-is in the throes of severe pecuniary agony. It appears that high rents, exorbitant taxes, expensive meat, eggs, and bread and butter have reduced even Autocrats to assume the role of the immortal Oliver Twist. In future, the small fry of Government officials must hew their own wood, draw their own water, spread their bread thinly with the cheapest salt butter, mend their own boots, labour unceasingly during leisure hours at their own homes, and strike twelve to fifteen per cent from their hard-earned salaries; but the Oliver Twist of the Audit Department howls through the Budget and estimates for "only one thousand dollars hore.". The dignity of "Ye Great Dominion" "cries for more." The swells have reached "starvation point," and the "country is in danger!" Oh!, ye husbands and fathers who belong to the "small fry," Diogenes implores you to abstain from demanding bread at the hands of your employers. Be merciful! It might interfere with the Big Wigs. Waive your claims, and continue your present industrious habits. From the experience of the past, your generosity will some day be rewarded by the influence of the suffering sutocrats, who feel compelled, for the honor of the Dominion, to give a few more luxurious entertainments at the expense of your comfort. Let Patience and Christian Charity be your guides in this trying hour, and your Auditor will eventually patronize and reward you!

## OBVIOUS.

A mad woman of St. Lonis recently bit a piece out of the hand of a County Judge (who was endeavouring to soothe her), and then swallowed the morsel. This, Drogenes thinks, may be termed "A digest of the law."


THE LASTDDREAMOF ODISAPPOINTEDPOLITICIANS"

A SICK CONTRIBUTOR'S EXPERIENCES OF "OPIUM," AN "EXECUTION FOR RENT," AND A "SHERTFFS SALE"
Now, when it is known that the Doctor had been administering opium to me every three hours, during a period of four weary days, it may be readily imagined that my brain and senses were anything but clar. Much has been written about opium and its effects: but the "confessions" of those who, in health, have been habitual opium-eaters utterly fail to describe the sensations of a sufferer who has incidentally been dosed with the somniferous poppy-juice.

De Quincey's pleasures and pains of opium have here no existence. There is no pleasure, unless it be the soothing of physical pain: no particular pain, except the almost perfect incapacity for pleasure of any kind. There is an absolute impossibility of concentrating one's ideas on any particular subject, or of comprehending any particular detail. One can imagine a world, but not an individual. Miss Martineau, in that delightful litule book, "Life in a Sick Room," shows that she can never have taken opium to any extent. One of her favorite books during her sickness was Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome., To an opium patient, such a book would be positively painful. All stir and commotion of battle, unless in the case of immense numbers, without any distinctive individuality, would be unbearable.

## "Twice thirty thousand men before, And the broad flood behind,"

is an idea which would be soothing to the nerves, but to fix the attention on the "dauntless three" would be an impossibility. Opium deals in generalities, and is productive of nouns of multitude. No wonder De Quincey described so well that vast hegira of the Asiatics.

Another peculiarity of opium is its effect on our curiosity. We want to know just something about everything that is taking place, but we abhor details. Charles Lamb, when sick, must assuredily have taken opium. The following description of a patient's feelings is virid and truthful: "Household rumours touch him not. Some faint murmur, indicative of life going on within the house, soothes him, while he know's not distinctly what it is. Servants gliding up or down the distant staircase, treading as upon velvet, gently keep his ear awake, so long as he troubles not himself further than with some feeble guess at their errands. Exacter knowledge would be a burthen to him; he can just endure the pressure of conjecture. He opens his cye faintly at the dull stroke of the muffled knocker, and closes it again without asking 'Who was it?. He is flattered by a general notion that inquiries are making after him, but he cares not to know the name of the inquirer."

While in just such a state of mind as this, I heard a knock at my door, and my landlord then entered, with rather a long face. I was sensibly annoyed at the interruption. I had seen him before that morning, and had paid him my month's board. What more could he want of me? His intrusion seemed an impertinence. I always had a great liking for my landlord, but at present all feelings of kindness were dulled. In ternis of stanmering hesitancy he informed me that there was a seizure in the house for rent, and that the bailiffs were at present taking an inventory of the furniture. "But," added he, kindly, "you need not disturb yourself about it; everything in this room belongs to you, and they cannot touch anything." - "Then why on earth," said I," "o you bother me about it at all?". At any other time I should have sympathised heartily with the poor fellow's misfortunes, but opium apparently steals one's heart. "Well," said he, "I thought it as well to tell you, but I will see that the bailiffs do not disturb you. They are very gentlemanly fellows, - in fact, we have just
been having a glass together." The last argument seemed to me satisfactory. I dismissed him and went to sleep.
How long I slumbered, I know not. I was awakened by a hideous noise in the next room-a perfect volley of broad Scotch. It was the voice of Alexander McKinstry. He was evidently in a furious rage. He was using every violent expletive passible, short of downright oaths. These latter he never used. He was a strict member of the Kirk, believed in its teachings, and, wonderful to relate, practised what he believed. Now, my good old friend Sandy is one of the most amiable and serene-tempered of men. Opium itself could not deaden my curiosity to know what had ruffed him to this abnormal extent. Sandy, like many of his countrymen, is accustomed to boast of his ancestors. From these he had inherited two invaluable articles, which occasioned him, I honestly believe, the only earthly trouble that he ever hack One of these bequests was a watch, the other a foot-pan. To be appreciated, that watch must be seen and examined a privilege not accorded to the profanum vilgus. It is a gold timepiece, - 10 paltry gimcrack, no Geneva toy, but a weighty decoration that has solid gold cases (which must be removed before it can be even wound up), and a chain-such a chain! Not exactly a chain cable, but rather like one of those flat endless chains which you see passing round wheels and drums in machine-shops, and almost as massive. To this is appended a bunch of seals, of enormous dimensions. This watch and this chain had evidently been worn in an oldfashioned fob by one of his ancestors. Sandy, who scorns to be behind the age (except as regards heirlooms), carries the watch in his waistcoat pocket, where it seems sadly out of place. The seals he hides somewhere in his capacious bosom. They must necessarily occasion great discomfort in that region, but Sandy appears perfectly satisfied with the arrangement. The foot-pan is a small one, with a somewhat shattered and battered general aspect. A short time ago Sandy thought of having it painted; but, on mature consideration, came to the conclusion that paint would only desecrate the family relic.

To return from this long digression. What was the cause of Sandy's loud-spoken indignation? The bailiffs were seizing his foot pan!
'I cannot help it, sir, my orders are to seize all the furniture in the house," said a deep voice. Suddenly it occurred to me that my own property might not be so perfectly safe after all, but I soon dismissed the idea as a bore. About half an hour afterwards there was another knock at the door. My landlord again entered, followed by a very dark bailff with a watch chain and a frown, a very fair bailiff with a blue neckcloth and a smile, and a short gentleman with a pen, ink, and note-book. My landlord had not exaggerated their politeness. It was positively exasperating. In vain he assured them that all the articles in the room belonged to me. The dark bailiff bowed. In vain I confirmed the fact. The fair bailiff smiled with angelic streetness. "One blackwalnut bookcase," shouted bailiff Niger. Now, the clerk had a pen of unprecedented scratching power, which might have been heard at least six bedrooms away from mine. Add to this, that during the intervals of writing he had a habit of playing the devil's tatoo with his knuckles on the table, independent of executing imaginary clog-dances with his feet. I am not partial to these exercises, even when I am in health; but when an invalid is in a state of opiun, they are to the last degree irritating. Niger proceeded. "One large chest of drawers." Scratch went the pen. "But, my dear sir"" said I apologetically, "those drawers are full of wearing apparel, and you cannot seize that." "I said nothing about wearing apparel," replied Niger-with impressive dignity, "I only said drawers." "Perhaps," interrupted Albus, "the gentleman" means that dratuers are wearing apparel." The wretch posi-
tively grinned, Niser frowned horribly, and the clerk whistled "Not for Joseph" with an obligato accompaniment of heels. I subsided. With the blandest courtesy these two polite officials finished the inventory of everything in my apartment. I took another nap, and woke up with a conviction that bailiffs, though, perhaps, excellent people in their way, are very undesirable companions in a sick room.
(To be continued)

## THE AGE OF HUMBUG.

The other day Dio. was much pleased to rend of the many excellent examinations passed by, and the certificates of honor awarded to some of the medical graduates of McGill College. Dio. congratulates himself that Canada possesses an accession of worthy young men, ready to devote themselves to their profession and become useful in their generation; but from the placards posted on the city walls it appears that years of study are by some deemed useless. Nous azons change tout cela, The taste for healing, like that for divinity, appears to increase, and nothing seems easier now-days than to repair the injuries of a man's constitution or to supply orthodoxy. Men who have studied incessantly for years, and who possess the highest ability, coupled with experience, are now to be cast aside, in order that the nostrums of some ignorant pretender, or the suggestions of a twadding old woman, may be tried. Every man who is too lazy to work at his trade, and what is worse, every woman who is competent to thread a needle, imagines himself or herself to be a "doctor; and where science, with cautious hand, would scarcely venture to interfere, -conceited, stupid ignorance will dash forward and cut the Gordian difficulty by snapping the thread of life. We sneer at the "dark ages," and deride the ignorance and credulity of our forefathers, but we are strongly disposed to think that posterity will have a hearty laugh at our boasted intelligence and simulated aversion to humbug. How comes it that these benevolent miracleworkers never $\$ 0$ into the law as a profession? Is the game beneath them when the stake is only property and not health and life? Is Mesmerism to find derotees and set at naught the experience of the learned and the triumphs of laborious and patient investigation?

## THE IMPOSSIBILITY DEMONSTRATED.

Diogenes has been compelled to listen to a rumour characterized by the very essence-nay, the quintessence, of absurdity. In fact, "the height of folly can no further go." It has actually been whispered that an Englishman is about to enter the Privy Council! This originated out of the failure of negociations with Mr. McKenzie, who, it is said, declined office because, at the moment, desks could not be found for his grandfather and grandmother, and his aunts and his uncles. The canard is not only improbable-it may be ranked among the impossibilities. The sacred precinct of the P.C. is so securely fenced and hedged in with thistles that it is impenetrable to everything except an Ass or a Scotchman!

## CHARITABLE.

Scene near a Church.


## DISTINGUISHED ARRIVALS.


ortunately for the votaries of fashion, who are just now dying for a little excitement, Drogenes is enabled to announce the safe return to Montreal of the Chevalier Chapmanne and Captain The Hon. Stanley de Bag, two distinguished travellers, who, according to the Giornale di Roma and the Gavette de Nice, have lately so journed in those cities. Diogenes is informed that the arrival of the gallant Captain on the eve of the meeting of the Anglican Synod has been the cause of intense excitement among clergy and laity.

## A CHAIN OF REASONING.

In a former number the Cynic published a letter from a respected correspondent, who signed himself, "Dyspepsy." More recently, in searching for certain information among some Ganadian newspapers of more than thirty years ago, the Philosopher discovered another letter with the same signature. As it is somewhat of a literary curiosity, he ventures to throw upon it the light of his lantern, and to rescue it from the oblivion in which it was sleeping. It'is "resurrected;" as the Yankees say, from the Montrcal Trartscript of Saturday, October 15th, I836, and reads as follows:
To the Editor of the Transmift :
Sir,-1 avail myself of your extensive circulation, to warn the public of the extreme danger of under-done potatocs. A ball-boiled potato may be the destruction of the inost powerful nation! For a nation may be overthrown by the defeat of its army; is army may be defeated, owing to the clouded intellect and the diminished energy of its General, on the day that the battle takes place; the General may be thus indisposedfrom indigestion,-nothing more likely;-this indigestion may arise from eating an under done potato,- therefore, a half-bolled potato niay be the destruction of a powerful nation.

> Yours, cc.,

Dyspersy:

## GOOD NEWS FOR DENTISTS.

The Ailsa-Craig Revicu informs us that a new disease called the "black tooth" destroys large numbers of swine.

The only remedy yet adopted by farmers is extraction. Perhaps some of our worthy Pultuzks will improve on this, and thereby add a profitable branch to their already lucrative occupation.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS

GG. is rather late in the day, The line was quoted in the same connection in Diogenes No. 3, page 23. "R. VV"The sketch is not bad. Change the dialogue and we will endeavor to use it. Thanks.

## CIGARS and TOBACCOS.

## FROA RNITANDFRECT.

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