"JOHN BULL'S ELDEST"

JAP AUTHOR DRAWS SATIRIC PEN PICTURE OF CANADA.

Dominion Institutions, Customs and Characteristics Criticized In Humorous Vein—Says Canadians Are Negligent of Family Duties — Has Very Vast Estate—Does Not Notice Faults—Deficient In Imagination.

One of the results of the recent difficulty between Canada and Japan has been the publication of a Japanese book containing some rather curious observations, and reflections upon Canada and Canadian affairs. The book is entitled "John Bull's Eldest Born," and consists of a series of letters, addressed to an official of the Japanese Government, and purporting to be written by one of those young men Japan sends abroad to study conditions and customs in foreign lands.

In these letters the author gives us a satiric picture of Canada, its institutions, customs and characteristics. Sometimes the picture seems a bit overdrawn, and at others the satire seems rather obscure; but even when flagellating our most cherished illusions the author shows a spirit of such good humor, and withal so much friendliness and genuine admiration, that it is difficult to take umbrage. In any case these letters are not without interest as showing the impressions of a representative of a very old civilization, as well of a nation with which we are evidently destined to have large dealings in the future. A translation of the first letter, in which the writer, personifying Canada under the title of Mr. John Beaver, deals with certain aspects of our national character, etc., is given herewith:

To the Marquis Hashibito, at the Court of the Son of Heaven:—

Illustrious Masuro:

In pursuance with your august commands I set myself to the task of giving you some account of Mr. John Beaver, his household, and affairs, trusting that if my performance jump not with your expectations, your condescension will impute it, not to the insignificance of my intentions, nor any lack of zeal in commission, but to the meanness of my abilities. Know then, most honorable Lord, that I arrived in safety at Mr. Beaver's country, and was received with much ceremony and some pomp. Many of Mr. Beaver's household officers were on hand to greet me, and so great was their solicitude for my health, and so vigorous their efforts to acquaint themselves with my business, and facilitate me therein, that I was touched to a degree. But in time these ceremonies were over, and I was graciously given the freedom of their master's household, and here I have dwelt some space, making observation of many things, and reflecting deeply upon them.

As you have already heard, my Lord, Mr. Beaver owns a very vast estate, well diversified with wood and water; and upon it he grazes many cattle and raises much grain and other fruits of the field. Also of towns he owns not a few; and in these he has many people employed in diverse industries. Indeed, his estate is so vast, his enterprises so manifold, that no words of mine are big enough to describe them.

Also, I fear I will be able to give you but a very inadequate picture of Mr. Beaver himself, for his personality betakes of much of the indefiniteness and heterogenity of his possessions.

Imagine, then, a young man of some stature, ruddy of face, and sturdy of limb—a strong, ambitious, self-confident man, full of enterprise and energy, and withal as deliberate in his motions as a machine; and as tireless, in spite of his great wealth—or perhaps because of it—this young man is as industrious as a farmer, and in many respects as thrifty as a village merchant. A very glutton for work, and full of plans for the improvement of his estate, he is always busy—so busy, indeed, that he takes no time to cultivate the graces of life. In short the young man has all the virtues of his sire, our very good friend, Mr. John Bull—and, alas! none of the old gentleman's fine vices.

Mr. Bull, as you know, is a great worker and a fine business man; but also he is a man of some sentiment, and loves his hour of relaxation and social fellowship. When the toils of the day are over, he is not above resorting to the village ale-house and indulging in the delights of boon companionship. Open-hearted, free-handed, his temper mellowed by the years, he enjoys the convivial moment. None is fonder of the long and windy argument with his neighbors; and none can sing a lustier stave. And if sometimes the old gentleman gets in his cups and sets the neighborhood by the ears, yet, because of the greatness of his heart, he always retains the respect of the world. But young Mr. Beaver wastes not his time nor substance in the village tavern. All his thoughts are focussed upon the problem of making money, and ever more money, though to tell the truth he is not at all avaricious, for he does not seek money for itself but as a means of improving his estate. All day he rushes about as if possessed with a demon of energy, and in the evening he shuts himself in his office and labors over plans of new enterprises and improvements till the night is far spent. Indeed, the young man's love of work and lust of achievement has become a sort of besetting sin with him.

As you might imagine, Mr. Beaver, being thus absorbed in business affairs is often grossly negligent of his family duties. True, he keeps a good house and never stints his wife in money matters; but for all that his attitude to his wife and children leaves much to be desired. When he took unto himself his present wife she was a fine, pleasant-mannered young woman, famed for her industry and thrift and of good repute for virtue; though there were spiteful rivals who declared that she had previously compromised herself by an outrageous flirtation with Sammy Longshanks. But be that as it may, Mr. John was much enamored of her sunny ways, and her brilliant rendering of his favorite song Economy, and after a fervent courtship, he made her mistress of his household, gave her a very liberal allowance, and then went back to his work.

At first the young wife took great interest in her household affairs, and labored hard and earnestly to keep things clean and bright, and never wasted a penny. But when she found that her husband was quite indifferent to her doings, she lost interest, and gradually fell from grace. Like many another young woman, brought up in a poor if honest family, and suddenly placed in control of a great house and much money, and left to her own devices, she couldn't withstand the insidious assaults of prosperity. Ere long she contracted a love of ease and luxury, and grew fond of extravagant display, splendid equipages, balls, masquerades, wine, graft and other unseemly things. Also, not finding in her husband the affection a young wife expects, she sought it elsewhere, and surrounded herself with a galaxy of gay young sparks. And so lightheartedly she pranced down the primrose path of dalliance, corrupting herself and all John's household, growing greedy of lewd gossip, and learning to cap the most lascivious tale with a fantastic invention of her own prurient imagination, showering John's money upon her favorites, becoming ever more free in her speech, and loose in her manners, till her conduct has become the scandal of the whole community.

But Mr. Beaver is still too absorbed in his businesses to notice any faults in his spouse, or the grave disorders brought upon his household by her grotesque extravagance and wantonness. And what is very strange even the very pointed hints of his neighbors, and especially of his sire, John Bull, do not seem to stir his suspicions. It would almost seem as if the young man thought so well of himself that it is quite impossible for him to imagine that he could make a mistake, in so simple a matter as that of choosing a wife. But be that as it may he affords another illustration of the truth of the saying that the husband is the last man in the neighborhood to know his own dishonor.

And if Mr. Beaver is an indifferent husband, he is also an unsatisfactory sort of father, for in his treatment of his sons he shows the same lack of sentiment. Although reputed to be wealthier in proportion to the size of his family than his neighbor, Sammy Longshanks, he does not spend on the education of one of his sons one-half what his neighbor does; and more than that, when he looks over his estates and thinks of the improvements he would like to make, he often grudges the money he does spend for this purpose. About the only way to induce him to make adequate provision for the education of his children is to persuade him that good schooling makes his sons better workers and money-getters.

Certainly the young man has little of that love of wisdom, per se, the ancients had. Self-made, and bumptiously satisfied with the results of his own work, he realizes not the limitations of his outlook upon life; and, finding in his business enterprises full play for his not very wide range of faculties, he looks with disapproval upon those of his sons who would grasp at new aspirations and larger ideals, and dare to imagine that the purpose of life might be more fully fulfilled by seeking to unfold and round out all their powers and faculties than by concentrating their thoughts and energies upon the business of making money. But what would you expect of a man so strong and domineering, so much in love with himself, and so full of the pride of possession? Quite naturally he expects his sons to trim themselves to his own peculiar pattern, and follow in his well-proved, if austere and colorless way of life; and naturally, too, he regards with the resentment always felt towards the incomprehensible those who cannot or will not adapt themselves to his rigid moulds, and, as it were, would set themselves up to be better than the old man. To the former he is not lacking in consideration; when he thinks about it he sets them up in life, though less as matter of sentiment than of business—much as he might, for instance, set up a new barn for his cattle. But for the latter he has only a harsh countenance or good-natured contempt; and as you may readily imagine many of them run away from home at the first opportunity. Indeed, the man's capacity for alienating the affections of his sons is so great that nearly one-half of them have left him to take service with their Uncle Sam.

But happily for his peace of mind Mr. Beaver is too deficient in imagination to ever arrive at the idea that the desertion of his sons might be a reflection upon himself as a parent; and he is too deficient in sentiment to worry over his loss. In the smug complacency born of the contemplation of his own distinguished virtues, he dismisses his truant sons from his thoughts, and sends forth and brings in a lot of foreigners, and puts them to work on his farms and in his workshops, and rubs his hands as if he had done a great stroke of business. "If I kept these addlepated sons of mine at home," he growls, "they would only idle their time and dream dreams and see visions, and worry one with demands for interpretations thereof. Let their Uncle Sam take them if he can make use of them; and good riddance of bad rubbish, say I. These foreigners will serve my turn. They'll work hard, want little, and never trouble with silly questionings. I'm a business man first, last and all the time; and there's no sentiment in business. If my sons are not satisfied with being treated on business principles I can get lots of hired men."

But of Mr. Beaver and his business-is-business philosophy, and the strange things that have come to pass because of his practice of it, I shall have more to say anon. In the meantime, most worshipful master of the multitude, accept by these presents my humble and heartfelt felicitations. May your ancestors fill one-half of heaven, and your posterity crowd the other half.

(Signed), COUNT IKKIDIU.

Hee Haw!

Jones—Right? I'm sure I'm right! I'll bet my ears on it!

Brown—Steady, old man! Don't go to such extreme lengths!—Judge.

Courage From Experience.

When winter's fros' mos' stops my bref,
I minds myse'f as how
I nebber yet done freeze to de'f,
An' I ain't a-gwinter now.
—Washington Star.

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NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

THE CITY OF FREDERICTON will apply at the next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick for an Act to authorize the said City to issue $21,000 of debentures to provide for the completion of recent improvements to the City Water System, $8,000, Debentures for completion of the Sewerage System and $6,000 of City Debt Debentures, all payable by instalments. ALSO for an Act to provide for the appointment by the City Council of a Constable to attend and execute all writs issued out of the City of Fredericton Civil Court.

J. W. McCREADY,
City Clerk

City Hall, April 2nd, 1908.
Apr.3 d 1 mo,

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Today's Suggestion by Ellen Stan.

FOLD TRIMMED SKIRTS.

FOLDS continue to be the approved manner of trimming the late skirts. This advance circular model has a single bias band, arranged so as to form a deep point at the front, back and sides. This skirt is in one piece and has small plaits set about the hips. The smart street modes are all made in a clearing length or shorter, as these are best suited for walking. Plaits are universally used on the latest models. When arranged at the lower part they have more or less tendency toward the flounce effect.

Much the same styles and effects are worn by young girls as those just described, while for the smaller girls of the schoolroom period and children the jumper, one piece and guimpe dresses prevail. In many of these there is a suggestiveness of the broad Japanese effect, a bretelle cleverly arranged or the cut of the dress itself often being responsible for this. Box coats are also much worn, and they are the nattiest and most becoming of all juvenile street garments.

No style was ever more popular than the graceful blouse jacket, which had such a vogue only a few seasons ago, and this is rapidly forging ahead. The newest design betrays its propinquity to the prevailing Japanese effect in the shape of the wide mandarin bands set on so as to conceal the armholes. The jacket has a peplum, and a high crushed girdle completes the whole. As an evening wrap the long voluminous cape with hood is just the thing. It may be fashioned of lightweight broadcloth, silk or satin and is handsomest in white, biscuit or any of the pastel shades.

Many smart effects appear for spring outdoor wear. A new street costume very popular comprises a Prince Chap coat and a skirt fold trimmed made after the model illustrated. It is one of the modes of the day and is exceedingly chic and girlish in effect. The smart cutaway coat is worn with the fronts dividing abruptly below the waist and thence extending to form a deep swagger at center back.

This one piece circular skirt is made in short or sweep length. The pattern is cut in six sizes—from 22 to 32 inches waist measure. To make this garment for the average person it requires 5½ yards of material 44 inches wide.

Any reader of this paper who desires to procure this pattern may do so by sending 10 cents to this office. Give the number, 3822, and write the full address plainly. Pattern will be forwarded by mail promptly.

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20 dozen men's American made negligee shirts, new designs, goes on sale Friday at 59 cents each, 2 for $1.10 Sizes 14 to 17, regular value 75c. to $1.00.

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