

A "PRENTICE HAN'."

You remember Burns says in one of his poems that the Creator left some part of the work of creation to a "prentice han," hence its defects. "A Highland Park Citizen" reported that famous Saturday evening meeting, in McDonald's hall, in last week's Sun, and proved a "prentice han" sure enough, for as a piece of reporting it was fearfully de-

as he wanted it to be, instead of as it actually transpired.

That report reminds me of a voluble Frenchman who was exhibiting curios, antique and otherwise, and with the lot a dilapidated old sword which he said was the identical one Balaam had when he killed the ass. A wag in the audience sung out that Balaam did not have any sword; only wished he had one. "Oui, oui, Monieur," replied the voluble son of France, "you be correct, but this am the sword Balaam wished he had."

The meeting "Citizen" reported was very like the one he wished was held, but it certainly was not the one that was held, so far as I know or have been able to learn. But then his is a "prentice han'." He says I made a speech and

the friends of the schools coming by "twos and threes and dozens preferred to be at home, and so withdrew. So Hibbard was a sneak and a coward, was he, when he saw such men as "Citizen," Patton, Kirk, Cobb, Grant, et al.? Perhaps "Citizen" was not present a few months ago when Grant and Cobb and their valorous associates tried to exclude Hibbard from the council chamber. But several quite prominent citizens were there. Ask them if Hibbard played the part of coward on that historic occasion. Ask ex-Mayor Fletcher, Erskine, Mayor Evans and many others who heard Grant call out: "You acknowledge that you lied, don't you?" if that terrible charge so frightened Hibbard that he jumped out of the window or ran down the stairs.

I know that some of those men who came into McDonald's hall as "Citizen's" friends are men of repute. One of them has the reputation of hitting one of his associates a whack in the face when

he said something he did not like; another of telling an associate he lied, and so on, but when "Citizen" implies that I ran away from even those fellows, he knows he is not telling the truth. I do not accuse him of gross misrepresentation purposely. Not at all; he is a "prentice han'"; he evidently did not know how to report correctly. The whole report bears on the face of it, in almost every

paragraph, evidence of inaccuracy, even if I did not have the testimony of those who participated

As to "Citizen's" personal insinuations about me, I will let it pass for what it is worth, with this one remark: I have, I believe, on two occasions voted for "Citizen" for a high office in this city, and both times the people vetoed my vote. I did the same once for Mr. Patton, with like result. I hope I shall yet have a chance to vote for them again for the same or higher offices, with better success. I have been a candidate several times in the City of Highland Park and the town of Deerfield for office, and the people have ratified my candidature by handsome majorities.

"Citizen" says that a certain issue of the local paper, the NEWS-LETTER, was "largely taken up with charges of laxity in the public funds and a general dishonesty on the part" of the two school boards. I will not call that a falsehood, for a "prentice han" wrote it, but I will challenge "Citizen" or anyone else to prove it in any one particular. As a matter of fact the NEWS-LETTER contains about eighteen or twenty columns of reading matter, and that particular issue contained about one column of matter which referred to our schools. That is how "largely" the paper was devoted to school-matters. But why go on?

"Citizen's" report of Colonel Davidson's part in the meeting was even more reprehensible than his report of mine. The simple fact was that someone made Messrs. Shields and Patton believe their schools were to be attacked—just what the originators of that meeting determined should not be done—and came there primed and loaded to the muzzle, and of course they had to "shoot," but their guns "kicked" and knocked them over; they lost their heads and—and—that report in last week's Sun was to let them down easy. I hope they and all who suffered with them will recover. LEWIS B. HIBBARD.

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