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President	-	-	-	J. V. WRIGHT.
General Manager	-	-	-	T. G. WILSON.
Artist and Editor	-	-	-	J. W. BENGOUGH.

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Comments on the Cartoons.



A LITTLE POINT OF SOME IMPORTANCE.—Mr. Meredith's view of the position which, in the contemplation of the law, the Separate Schools were intended to occupy, is unquestionably correct: viz.—they were meant to be supported by the Roman Catholic citizen, by his own voluntary action, and to be controlled by Roman Catholic citizens, as such, and not by the Hierarchy. While this is perfectly sound, theoretically, the trouble is that the theory never is and never can be reduced to practice, because the Roman Catholic citizen has no practical existence apart from the Church. It is the tremendous claim of the Papacy to exercise absolute control over its adherents in all the relationships of life that constitutes the question now up for discussion, not only in Canada but in every other free country today, and that question can only be solved in accordance with modern ideas of personal liberty by a universal revolt of Roman Catholics against the arrogant claim of the Church—something we will look for in vain. So long as Separate Schools exist they will be under the domination of the priesthood, because the faithful Catholic recognizes that to combat the opinion of the priest

on any question whatever is to defy the will of Heaven and to render himself liable to condign spiritual punishment. We have just now a striking illustration of this in the case of the Separate School Trustees in this city who somehow brought themselves to believe that as citizens they had a right to agitate for the ballot in Separate School elections and that in so doing they were transgressing no rule of the Church. They found that they were offending against the wishes of the clergy, which amounts to the same thing. On election day last week they were, to a man, snowed, under by their more pious and orderly co-religionists, whose zeal for the cause of "righteousness" was well expressed by one old lady who went to the poll to vote for Mr. McIntosh, and who was canvassed by the ballot candidate. "Wud I be a thraitor and vote that way? No!" And yet the poor soul would have found it beyond her reasoning powers to tell in what way the ballot system is contrary to sound Christian doctrine. She knew the priest had said it was, and that was enough. So runs the tale throughout Canada and throughout the world. It sounds well, all this talk about independent action in secular matters on the part of our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens, but how many of them dare act independently, even to the extent that Mr. Cahill and his supporters have done?

NO LAUGHING MATTER.—The current news from Ottawa is that Sir John Macdonald is as dapper and chirpy, and as ready with his joke as ever. This must be satisfactory to the Canadian consumer, who is groaning his heart out under a burden of taxation imposed for the personal and exclusive benefit of a few favored manufacturers. It is pleasant to know that "Canada's greatest statesman" does not allow the trifling circumstance that a gross and cruel injustice is being inflicted upon the masses to moderate his mirthfulness. It would ill become GRIP to cavil at the humorous spirit, and yet we cannot help thinking that jokes and jollity would become Sir John better if, while indulging in that sort of thing, he had the sweet consciousness that he was doing his best to give the country fair and honest government. Laughter at the Capital just now has a suggestive sound of Nero's fiddle about it.



ETHER the unprecedented weather, or the wide circulation of the other Grippe, or something else, caused us to overlook last week the interesting fact that with the first issue for 1890 this excellent family journal began its thirty-fourth volume and its seventeenth year. The oldest inhabitant can recall no comicpaper ever published in Canada that enjoyed the felicity of cutting a notch so far along in the stick of life as this. Were it not for our almost

morbid modesty we would point out that this is probably because this country has never had a journal quite so bright and fresh and capable and sound in its opinions as—. But we leave this for the discriminating public to say, and they are saying it in practical form of paid-up subscriptions. In this connection it may not be too late for us to wish our readers a very Happy New Year.

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BUFFALO has become well acquainted with smuggling. The high tariff laws are a constant inducement to commit the crime, which is no crime in the minds of the poor people who engage in it. Knock down those unnatural barriers to prosperity.—*Buffalo Times*.

The existence of money is a constant temptation to some people to steal. Shall we abolish money?—*Toronto World*.

There wouldn't be so much tendency to steal if the laws were not so arranged as to make it hard for the man who is willing to work to get a fair equivalent for what he produces. It is these laws that need abolishing, and the Tariff Act is one of them.

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OUR journalistic neighbor, Mr. E. E. Sheppard, has gone down to the West Indies to investigate society