



A DOG IN THE MANGER.

HON. G. E. FOSTER—"The principal difficulty I see is that if we are to bribe all the disaffected element there won't be enough to go round."

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—"Ma foi, if ze Orangiste is to get ze good things just because ze Premier is Catholique, I would sooner see an Orangiste Premier at vonce—zen you have to buy ze Francaises."

SIR THOMPSON—"Of course we can't be supposed to satisfy everybody, but the true science of government consists in knowing who it is absolutely necessary to buy and who can be put off with promises and soft sawder."

HON. JOHN CARLING—"Just so. Even half a dozen appointments, judiciously scattered among the noisiest and most influential of the malcontents, would probably be enough to make things run smooth for awhile."

HON. G. E. FOSTER—"But we haven't anything like that number of vacancies, and those we have are all promised several times over."

HON. JOHN HAGGART—"What's the matter with appointing another Commission?"

SIR THOMPSON—"Well, that's always feasible. I really don't think we could do better."

HON. G. E. FOSTER—"But we've had commissions on

every conceivable question. What do you propose to investigate now?"

(Solemn pause.)

SIR THOMPSON—"Come, gentlemen, think of something plausible. There has been a good deal of criticism of the commission system lately, remember."

HON. G. E. FOSTER—"Ah, yes, so there has. A great many doubts are expressed as to its utility. I have it! Let us appoint a commission to enquire into the usefulness of appointing commissions."

SIR THOMPSON—"That will do exactly."

PAST, PRESENT, AND PROSPECTIVE.

THE THREE SIR JOHNS.

SIR JOHN the first, decreed by fate,
In life and death to serve the State;
And some assert 'twas fate's behest
That he by dying served it best.
Sir John the second, be it known,
Can serve us in one way alone;
So from his death the saints preserve us,
As he must live, not die, to serve us!
Long as he lives, his death deferred
Will save us from Sir John the third.

TORONTO, Sept. 15, 1892.

G.