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### Comments on the Grafting.



A DELICATE SITUATION.—Sir John finds himself at last in a "tight corner" between the people of Manitoba and the C.P.R. Syndicate. Their demands are diametrically opposed, and there is no middle ground to permit of a compromise. The Manitobans declare that the Disallowance Policy must cease absolutely and at once; the C.P.R. management demand, in equally stentorian tones, that it shall be persisted in. Both parties certainly cannot be accommodated, and it is difficult to see which of 'em the Government can best afford to offend. If Manitoba's petition is disregarded the result may quite possibly be bloodshed; if the syndicate is thwarted, terrible things seem to be apprehended, though precisely what these are is a profound cabinet secret. It strikes MR. GRIP that there is a first-rate opportunity here for Sir John to act upon that lofty classic principle *Fiat Justitia ruat cælum!* Now, what does Justice require in the premises? That Manitoba shall be allowed freely to exercise her constitutional rights to build all the railways she wishes to, within the old limits of the Province. The pretention of the Syndicate that this constitutional right is debared by the C.P.R. charter is an impudent falsehood. Sir John himself distinctly said, before the charter was ratified, that the Federal authority could not check Manitoba, and it is quite certain that the Prairie Province herself never voluntarily relinquished any of her rights. We believe in keeping faith with the Syndicate in every detail, and, if there are any conditions in the charter which we would like to have cancelled, we must be prepared to grant compensation for their erasure. But the current talk about "purchasing" the "Manitoba monopoly rights"—which do not exist in the charter, and never did—is nonsense which should be promptly rebuked. Sir John's duty is plain in the delicate position in which,

thanks to himself, he now stands—and his interest politically coincides, we believe, with his duty. He should tell the C.P.R. people to go about their business, and let them fire ahead with their "blue ruin." What can they do, anyway? Not half so much to destroy the Government and the Conservative Party as the now thoroughly aroused Manitobans. It is high time these cheeky "magnates" were taught that they do not constitute the Government of this country—if indeed that be the truth.

A LITTLE "CONFIDENCE GAME."—It is very amusing to see the *Globe*, and other faithful journalistic supporters of the Ottawa Opposition, pumping up stage thunder against all and sundry the members who failed to vote for Hon. Mr. Mills' resolution *in re* the Scott Act. Of course, the resolution itself deserved the support of every friend of temperance, but in view of the fact that it was brought forward under circumstances which made it practically a motion of want of confidence, the supporters of the Government could hardly be expected to display the amount of innocence Mr. Mills evidently credited them with. It was a straight party division, and the members stood up on both sides, as a matter of fact, without any regard to their individual records on the temperance question. The motion was introduced purely for political effect; it was a little confidence game to catch the rural Prohibitionist. But it will fail. The prohibition voter doesn't know Mr. Mills or Sir R. Cartwright in their new capacity as temperance apostles. He *does* know, however, that the Reform Party is *not* a Prohibition Party, any more than the Tory organization. Neither are committed to the principle; and, what is more, neither ever will be so long as the present leaders have control.

WHAT potency there is in a single letter of the alphabet! Take *e* for example—of course *e* is for example, anyway. Plain Gus Brown tacks this little simple letter to the end of his name, and who will deny that he goes up several degrees in the opinion of society as Mr. Augustus Browne? But this is not the greatest marvel *e* can perform. Fasten it to any of those wretches who ill-treat their horses and cattle and who are a disgrace to the human name, and mark the moral reformation—it makes them humane. These philosophical reflections are called up by the Eleventh Annual Report of the American Humane Association, which has just reached our table, and which contains a record of work that must enlist the sympathy of every right-minded reader. We are glad to know and announce that the Convention will meet this year in Toronto on the 19th, 20th and 21st of September.

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WE hope there is no truth in the rumor that it is the intention of the Reform Club of this city to visit condign punishment upon Mr. Peter Ryan and Mr. W. H. R. Preston for having failed to drown Senator O'Donohue in the air-hole in the Bay of Quinte when they had such a favorable opportunity the other day. It is due to the accused gentlemen to remember that their whole attention must have been occupied in saving their own lives, and that really they had no time to perform the service to their party which the Club charges them with having wilfully neglected.

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WE regret to observe that some of our unfeeling exchanges are indulging in airy persiflage over the recent snowstorm in New York. This is only excusable on the ground of ignorance. People in this Province have but a slight idea of the terrors of winter as experienced on Manhattan Island, but we can assure the humorously disposed Canadians that it is no joke. They should remember, too, that our New York brethren have from time immemorial extended to Canadians a most touching commiseration regarding frost, snow, etc., under the strange delusion that this is a cold country. Let us be grateful enough to refrain from merriment at the six feet drifts on Fifth Avenue.