

# GRIP

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

Grip Printing and Publishing Co.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

President  
Manager

J. V. WRIGHT.  
T. G. WILSON.

Terms to Subscribers.

PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and  
Canada.

To Great Britain and  
Ireland.

One year, \$2.00; six months - \$1.00 | One year - \$2.50

Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send two-cent stamps only.  
Messrs. JOHN HADDON & Co., Advertising Contractors, Fleet St. London, Eng., are the sole agents for GRIP in Great Britain.  
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PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.

THE OBLIGING CALL-BOY.—In a recent speech in Nova Scotia Sir John Macdonald, "to relieve the suspense of his Grit friends and to ease his own conscience," announced that there would certainly be no general

election this year and probably not next year. This, of course, ends all controversy, and the signs of life which were beginning to manifest themselves in the Liberal camp in view of the possibility of a sudden call to arms will at once disappear. Or, to use a figure more in accordance with the suggestion of our cartoon, the Liberal leaders, on this reassurance, will go in for "a little more sleep and a little more slumber," with the probable result of getting most effectually left when at last the bell does ring.

AFTER THE EMETIC.—Uncle Sam has swallowed the McKinley emetic, and the nausea is already depicted upon his features. Presently he will throw up the whole Protective system, which is an irritation to the internal economy of any nation. This we believe, notwithstanding the *ex cathedra* deliverance of the N.Y. Tribune that really nobody in the United States besides Sherman, Hitt, Butterworth and Wiman, ever think of Reciprocity with Canada. The new tariff is likely to be a pretty general aid to thought throughout the Republic, even where little has been

done heretofore. But about the least reliable source of intelligence on such a subject is the N.Y. Tribune which, whatever it may have been in the hands of Horace Greeley, is now among the most narrow and inconsistent of the organs of a party which has itself dropped from Lincoln to Matt Quay. It is worthy of mention in this connection that while the Tribune is, as per usual, singing the praises of high Protection as a boon to the workman in America, its editor, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, who happens to be American Minister at Paris, has been urging upon the French authorities the removal of the tax on American hogs on the ground that high taxation "benefits nobody but a small class of middle men, who are able to get higher prices than they could command in the face of fair competition." If Mr. Reid comes home with a stock of common sense like this, and acts accordingly, we may hope to find the Tribune itself amongst the advocates of Reciprocity before long.



S A HEN a bird? This ornithological question is worthy of the attention of our ripest scholars, and we would suggest to Mr. Goldwin Smith that it furnishes a worthy subject for his facile pen, because it has a direct and important bearing on the great question of our Trade Relations with the United States. An argument for the affirmative which could not be upset by pettifogging tariff lawyers across the line would be worth some \$2,000,000 to our farmers, for it would do away with the duty of five cents per dozen on eggs now imposed by the Americans. It appears that when Bill McKinley was making the McKinley Bill, he wrote down, "Eggs of birds, fish and insects, free," and this still stands in the law. Now, if a hen is a bird, how can the Yanks avoid letting in hens' eggs free under this clause?

\* \* \*

THIS is as nice a question as that concerning the whale—whether a fish or an animal? Apropos of which, there is a good thing told of a Scottish schoolmaster up Wingham way. The conversation happening to turn on Mark Twain and his humor, somebody quoted Mark's witty reply to the correspondent who asked him whether it was true that fish was good as brain food. "I believe it is," said Mark, "but I don't know precisely just how much fish is necessary in any given case. I should suppose, however, that a couple of whales would be about right for you to begin on." The dominie enjoyed this hugely, laughing both long and loud. When the fit of merriment had passed off sufficiently to allow of comment, said he: "To think that Mark Twain should suppose a whale is a fish, when it's an animal!" And yet they say Scotchmen can't appreciate jokes!

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OUR Scottish frien', John Imrie, has started a wee bit paper o' his ain, whilk he ca's the *Scottish Canadian*. It is a neatly printed twelve-page-sheet, with a highly artistic heading, into which is deftly wrought, "A man's a man for a' that," "Scots wha hae," "Nemo me impune lacesset," "We're a' John Tamson's Bairns," and "For Auld Lang Syne." John himself only kens why the remaining twa dizzen o' Scottish mottoes were ignored. To make up for this omission, however, he contributes a new and original song (music by E. Corlett), of which the following is the tooth watering chorus:

"Brose, parritch, haggis an' bannocks,  
Are dainties abune a' compare,  
Nae English, French, Yankees or Canucks  
Could mak' such a gran' bill o' fare!"