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PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

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The Christmas number of GRIP, with four pages beautifully lithographed in colors, has been a surprise to all, and orders are pouring in for it from all parts. It is acknowledged to be the finest number of GRIP ever got out. It is a capital number to send to friends abroad, as a representative Canadian publication. Price 10 cents a copy.

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Comments on the Cartoons.



CHAMPAGNE AS A LUBRICATOR.—The truly good Temperance Government of Ontario lubricated the sale of timber-limits the other day with champagne, and the consequence was that the affair was the most successful thing of the kind on record. This has naturally had a great effect upon the practical minds of the Local Cabinet, and it is said that champagne will hereafter be regularly incorporated into the Government policy, though of course Mr. Mowat and his colleagues will remain as true to the principles of prohibition—morally and theoretically—as ever. A broad scheme is now under discussion, we understand, looking to the practical application of champagne to Governmental uses. If we are not misin-

formed, the ministers have decided to work the new attachment on the floor of the chamber in the coming session, to facilitate the passage of Government measures. The only point which seems to give trouble is the expensiveness of champagne, Treasurer Ross thinks that cheap whiskey would have precisely the same effect at half the cost, and in this his colleagues entirely agree. But the question is, wouldn't cheap whiskey be rather a low thing for a truly temperance Government to dabble in. Champagne sounds tonier, but, groans the frugal Attorney-General, it's so confoundedly dear!

NORQUAY'S DILEMMA.—Sir Charles Tupper has been up to his eyes in business at Winnipeg. The usual air of mystery has surrounded his doings, but it is pretty generally understood that he is in the Prairies in the interests of the Norquay Government, which is in the unhappy predicament of being without a majority in the House. There is only one way of getting over this difficulty in the absence of a confidence-compelling policy, and that is to purchase support, which can be managed in a variety of ways known to our experienced statesmen. It is stated that this is the idea Sir Charles has been discussing with the "faithful," but we can hardly believe it. It doesn't seem at all like him, but just now it may be presumed the honorable gentleman is a trifle fishy.

A NEW "MESSAGE."—The *Globe* and other journals of the same political stripe, who acquiesced in the Malvern policy, have been trumpeting the praises of President Cleveland for his display of the opposite kind of thing. Says the *Hamilton Times*: "It does us good to see the Reform papers praise President Cleveland for speaking out plainly in favor of free trade. They all think that he has been wise to take the bull by the horns, and let friends and enemies know exactly what he means. Some of them ought to try the cap on. Too many Reformers have coquetted with protection, and when the *Times* gave them sound, orthodox, out-and-out free trade doctrine, they have replied with such platitudes as 'right in theory but impossible in practice.' It is worse than silly to hedge on the tariff question. Nobody is fooled by the man who straddles the fence. Cobden never told the people that the requirements of the revenue rendered a high tariff necessary. Bright never said that he would always remember vested interests in any readjustment of the tariff. Villiers never pretended to believe that wages were kept up by fiscal protection. All the great English free traders talked out plainly, and let the people know what they meant. President Cleveland has adopted the same policy, and he stands to win by it."

OUR SHOWS.

FOR Christmas, Mr. Sheppard, the enterprising manager of the Grand Opera House has secured the ever-welcome Irish comedian, Joe Murphy, & Co., in a round of Irish characters, viz., Kerry Gow, Shaun Rue and his new comedy, the *Donagh*. The managers look forward to the largest receipts at regular prices that the Grand has ever known. There will be three matinees, Monday (Xmas), Wednesday and Saturday.

THE *Brooklyn Eagle* has this to say of Chas. A. Gardner in the new *Karl*, who appears this week at the Toronto Opera House:—"Charles A. Gardner at the Novelty theatre, as *Karl*, jumped into popular favor last evening, as was evinced by the frequent calls he received to appear before the curtains. *Karl* is a fun-loving Dutchman, and his songs are new. He sings something after the style of Joe Emmet, but much better, and the audience is considerably surprised to learn how his story turns out. The theatre was comfortably filled, and if Gardner receives his just dues, there ought to be a sign, 'standing room only,' displayed early in the evenings hereafter."

— — ?

HE—What queer things you *do* see in the papers, Here's the *Canada Citizen* speaking of a "Liquor Dealers' Procession," and it says:—

'Aye, dealers, indeed, not in corn, nor wheat, nor cotton, nor meat, nor anything that meets a real need of our common humanity; but only that which ministers to the lowest passions, and degrades and brutalizes a race already sunk low enough without such infernal helps as maddening liquors furnish.'

She—"Well isn't that all right?"

He—"That's as you may think; but on the same page I find this receipt:—

MINCE PIES WITHOUT *Meat*.—Take of currants, apples chopped fine, etc., nutmeg and mace to suit the palate, and a glass of brandy.'

Eh ????"

She—"Well for mince-pie, you know—h'm."