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### Comments on the Cartoons.



**THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.**—When Sir John told the New York interviewer that he expected the Bleu bolt to cool off by the time that Parliament met, and “everything to go on as usual,” he no doubt spoke out of the depth of his knowledge of French-Canadian human nature. He is aware that in his political smithy there is a convenient tub of water by means of which the cooling process can be greatly accelerated, and if the worst comes to the worst, he can easily make a fizzle of the bolt by giving it a simple plunge. In plain words, the opinion is growing in the country that the recalcitrant Bleus will be reconciled by a payment under some euphonious name out of the public treasury for the general benefit of their Province.

“ONTARIO! ONTARIO!”—If Hon. John Carling is right in saying that such material prosperity as Canada has enjoyed of late ought to be credited to the Federal Government, why shouldn't Mr. Oliver Mowat lay claim to the chief part of said credit, as being the ruler of the Province which has enjoyed the largest share of the prosperity aforementioned? Logic is logic, as the builder of the celebrated “one-hoss shay” affirms.

**IT'S WORTH LOOKING INTO, SIR!**—In his London speech, and on many like occasions, Mr. Blake has scathingly exposed the corruption of the present Government; when the Reformers were in power the Conservative orators had no lack of material for similar denunciations. To the calm on-looker it is clear that there is corruption on both sides—far more corruption than can be accounted for on the mere hypothesis of the depravity of human nature. In the opinion of our contemporary the *Nevos*, the calm on-looker, when he begins to investigate this phenomenon, soon discovers that our system of government is responsible for nine-tenths of the wrong-doing. This is true. Had the framers of our constitution sat down grimly to concoct a system which would put a premium upon partisan jobbery, they could not have succeeded much better. The Canadian Premier who does not avail himself of the “chances” he has, cannot keep in office; the Premier who does so, becomes a corruptionist without fail. Now, since Mr. Blake is on the look-out for a positive policy (having already a first class *negative* one on hand) why doesn't he bring his powerful mind to bear on this grave matter? He knows that political corruption is fatal to a community. How does he propose to cure the malady in our own case? He simply promises that he and his colleagues, if entrusted with office, will refrain from using the opportunities our system places in their hands. This is mere trifling. What the country needs—and we believe

demands—is a radical cure. Our system could be made to guarantee a certain amount of purity independently of the personal character of the Executive. *There* is a task worthy of a statesman; that is what must be done to save Canada. The *Nevos* advocates a straight democratic system; Mr. Blake may see some other effective cure. It is worth his while to look into the question, at all events.

### As We Pass By.

**THE** unqualified success of our Free Public Library, as set forth in the annual report, is something to be proud of. That the institution will continue to grow in public favor, and prove as great a benefit as its sanguine promoters anticipated, is now assured. The choice of Mr. Bain as librarian has proved most fortunate. He is a rare union of efficiency and urbanity, and consequently is highly esteemed by all. Mr. Davy is also a very capable official, and a hard worker. These gentlemen have been supported by an enlightened Board of Directors, and hence the gratifying result.

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**WE** hear that Mr. J. D. Edgar, M. P., intends to resume his agitation on the subject of copyright this session, and we sincerely hope something may be done to cure the present anomaly. Surely it ought not to be hard to convince a majority elected on the doctrine of “Canada for the Canadians,” that Canadian authors and publishers should have rights in their own country at least equal to those enjoyed by Englishmen and Americans *via* England. A more grotesque law than the present one could hardly be devised.

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A movement is on foot for the improvement of the condition of the city newsboys. These hard-working little fellows have never been recognized by the city as they deserve, and many evils have grown up in connection with their useful though perilous calling. It is intended, we believe, to suggest the removal of little girls from the paper-selling business altogether. The City Council will shortly be asked to pass a by-law on the subject.



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**IT** does GRIP's heart good in these days of flabbiness to note the moral muscle of the anti-Mormon measure which has just passed the American Senate. It recalls the good old days of Cromwell. It doesn't stop to argue the fine point as to whether the Utah “Bishop” has a right to the pursuit of happiness in his peculiar way. It simply fetches Mormonism a Sullivanian right-hander between the eyes. The arguing will be done after the funeral.

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**BY** the way, what has become of that canine Black Maria? Our streets are teeming with vagrant curs innocent of owners, supplemented with hundreds of better bred dogs that have no receipt for their taxes in the shape of a tag. Haven't the authorities got a bob-sleigh to put the box on, or is the trap laid up for repairs? With all the vehemence of a citizen whose nights are made hideous with howling dogs, we call for the men with the scoop-net!