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### Comments on the Cartoon.



THEN AND NOW.—It would be extremely interesting to hear what Sir John Macdonald, as Commander-in-Chief of the Restrictionists, has to say in reply to the *Mails*' recent articles on the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854. Sir John is a clever man unquestionably, but it would require something more than human cleverness, surely, to demonstrate that his present attitude on the question of continental trade is consistent with that which he held in 1854 and up to 1874. It is not always necessary that a man should be able to show himself consistent, but this is one of the cases in which a want of consistency argues not an enlarged view and greater light, but a deliberate retrogression from soundness. What are the facts? The Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 gave us a large measure of Free Trade with the United States, and in many points it involved discrimination against British goods. John A. Macdonald strenuously supported the treaty, gloried in the claim that the Conservative party had secured it and upheld it against its alleged enemies, the clear Grit Leaders, and boldly avowed the right of Canada to discriminate against any nation whatsoever if she considered it in her own interest to do so, all of which was admitted by the British Government. Nobody in either party to-day dreams of denying that under the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 Canadian trade was enormously benefited. Well, what do we find now? This same Sir John, having, in 1878, desperately announced himself a Protectionist, in the hope of riding into office on a wave of popular ignorance, and having greatly to his surprise succeeded, now finds himself face to face with his own past record. It is the charlatan looking into the face of the statesman; and he meets the fate which every charlatan deserves. He finds himself obliged to live out what

he knows to be an economical falsehood. He believes in Free Trade as strongly now as he did in 1854, but he dare not act on the belief; he has made himself the chattel of the protected manufacturers, and he imagines that he must either do their bidding or get out of office. This latter alternative is, of course, not for a moment to be thought of. Hence we find a man of cleverness and sense acting with stupidity and talking nonsense. Nobody in Canada, we venture to say, is more utterly nauseated with the "loyalty" cry of the Restrictionists than Sir John, for the doctrine he manfully announced in '54 is equally true to-day. Being a man of wit, he is inwardly consumed with laughter over the absurd assertion that while it may be right to exchange natural productions with Yankees it is treason to have free trade with them in manufactured articles, and yet he must keep a straight face and cry hear, hear! to this consummate bosh. Poor old gentleman! Let us all sincerely hope that he finds in the mess of official pottage something that repays him for the loss of his birthright of mental and moral independence.

HON. WILFRID LAURIER.—Mr. Laurier's leadership of his party during the recent session was marked by so high a degree of ability that the Grit organs throughout the country are now playing an overture in his praise. At first there was some doubt felt as to whether, with all his classic eloquence, Mr. Laurier would be a successful leader. That he was a pure-hearted gentleman, profoundly esteemed by all who knew him regardless of party, did not necessarily prove that he possessed the unique gift of leadership. But the record of the session shows that he does possess this gift, and new hope has run through the party ranks. GRIP acknowledges no leader for himself, but deems it his right to pay an independent tribute to merit wherever he finds it. And all Canada may be proud of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier.

### VOL. XXXI.

WITH this number, GRIP enters upon his Thirty-First Volume, having completed the fifteenth year of his cheerful reign over the hearts of the Canadian people. In the words of the enterprising shopman, he begs to thank all his customers for their past favors, and hopes, by careful attention to their wants in the line of wit and wisdom to merit a continuation of their patronage. That he can with some assurance count upon this, seems to be indicated by the following expressions from a letter just to hand, and which is typical of many letters he has the pleasure of receiving:—

"I take this opportunity of expressing how delighted I am with GRIP. It is getting better and better all the time. It is strongly on the right side of every moral question, and ought to be the terror of every sham and humbug in politics, religion, etc. Your temperance cartoons, e.g., that of 5th May, on Scott Act, are most telling and most cleverly conceived, and must do incalculable good—more good than any amount of temperance speeches, newspaper articles, lectures or even sermons. I am proud to be a subscriber, and look forward to its weekly arrival with delight. It shows me the right and the wrong side of the most important events of the day at a glance, and your concise comments and severe but just criticisms and off-takes put all in a nut-shell and save time reading, etc. J. G."

POWASSEN 25, 6, '86.

THE heroic conduct of Mrs. Laura Secord in appraising the British of the contemplated attack of Boersler's forces in 1812, is once again made the subject of a poem, and this time the hand of a master has done it justice—the same hand that gave in *Tecumseh*. Vide the *Week* of June 21st. A first rate piece of work by a Canadian author is something uncommon enough to evoke enthusiasm, and the bard of Prince Albert rarely fails to "do us proud." After reading his latest we unanimously shout "Give us Mair, Charles, give us Mair!"

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THERE fluttered to our exchange table last week a gaudy journalistic butterfly yclept *Time*. With the eager interest of a naturalist we caught and examined the handsome stranger, and once more we had before us a demonstration of evolution. *Time*, (10c. per copy) with its broad and highly calendered pages and many-tinted cartoons, proved to be an evolution from *Tid-Bits*, the half-dime comic paper, which in turn had been evolved