

and would not tremble at that gentleman's accession to the Premiership. But as for Sir John Thompson—once let him become Premier and chaos is come again! With all due deference to the venerable Doctor, this strikes us as being bosh. We have not the profoundest confidence in Sir John as a politician, but we demand something more than rhetorical periods when it is alleged that he is working out some nefarious design of Jesuitism against the country.

SIR JOHN THOMPSON'S own reply to Dr. Douglass is at once dignified and satisfactory. It consists of just two sentences, but it could not have been stronger had it been as long as the Criminal Law Amendment Act. He says: "Those who know that a man may change his religious views from conviction need no explanation. It would be idle to give reasons to those who do not believe that a man may conscientiously become a Catholic."

MESSRS. MCCARTHY AND O'BRIEN have entitled themselves to positions as star freaks in GRIP's Dime Museum, because, as Members of Parliament, they dared to call their souls their own to the extent of speaking against the Gerrymander Bill. Partyism is carried to such an idiotic extreme in Canada that this is quite an honorable distinction. But these worthies will be outranked as curiosities when we can find a couple of members of Parliament who will not only speak against a bad measure introduced by their own leader, but who will also vote against it. It is noticeable that the names of both McCarthy and O'Brien are absent from the division list on the vote for the second reading of the bill. This robs them of most of the credit they deserved for their exhibition of "independence."

HON. DAVID MILLS followed the bad example of Lord Salisbury when he darkly hinted at the possibility of physical resistance in case the Gerrymander Act was forced on the country. A resort to arms will not be necessary, if the Canadian electorate disapproves of the iniquity; it can be rendered futile by the noiseless force of the ballot. Sir John Thompson can bunch the constituencies in such a way as to make the election of a majority of Tories by a minority of the people seem certain; but he cannot make voters cast their ballots just as he calculates. He is counting upon the Conservative citizens of this country being as reckless and besotted partizans as he is himself. It remains for these citizens to undeceive him.

MEANWHILE there is every indication that the Bill is going to become law, and that without any material modification of its nastiness. It has passed its second reading and is now in committee, where amendments are being voted down with machine-like precision. In the divisions, always on the wrong side, we find the name of N. F. Davin, a gallant gentleman who would scorn to take a mean advantage of an opponent in any private dispute. Yet here he is, following the Government through muck and mire like a menial, and, we are sure, heartily despising himself for doing it. Faugh!

THE Churches have been enjoying a busy, and let us hope profitable, time with their conferences, conventions, assemblies and synods. Many important

topics have come up for discussion, and been laid at rest more or less satisfactorily. As usual, the reverend gentlemen have resolved on the great temperance question, an operation which is regarded with complacency by the traffic, which knows that votes are the only things that count. In view of a recent cartoon in these pages, it is with much satisfaction that we note the resolve of the Methodists to refuse hereafter all State aid to their mission work. During the last five years subsidies have been paid to Church schools as follows: Roman Catholic, \$1,989,000; Presbyterian, \$286,000; Congregationalist, \$183,000; Friends, \$140,000; Episcopalian, \$102,000; Methodist, \$33,345. This Church-and State business ought to be stopped altogether.

MR. BLAINE'S public career appears to be over, and his departure is ignominious. The "magnetic" statesman exploded from a superabundance of magnetism. The Republic, and especially the Republican party, is well rid of him. Though the object of an unreasoning and bellowing sort of worship of a large section of that party, he was always a source of weakness and trouble. He was the American Tupper, and never allowed the cares of State to obscure his own personal business interests.

HERE is a characteristic chunk of wisdom from the pen of the level-headed gent who edits the *Hamilton Times*:

Quebec is considering the taxation of mortgages. The heaven-born statesmen who are advocating the idea are going to take for public uses part of the usurer's exactions from the borrower. That's what they think. The money-lender just smiles and familiarizes himself with the column of the interest table represented by the addition of the per cent. tax to the current interest rate. The rider who took the bag of flour from before the saddle and carried it on his shoulder, "to relieve the boss," ought to be Finance Minister in the De Boucherville Government.



A CONTRADICTIONARY CRY.

FREDDY—"Say, nurse, is that man selling fresh fish?"

NURSE—"He pretends to be."

FREDDY—"Then why does he holler out, 'Fresh fish, all a lie?'"