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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE LEADERS SUMMED UP.—Mr. Blake's speech at London, so anxiously awaited, fulfilled the highest anticipations of his friends as an oratorical effort. As to its political import, it was no doubt equally satisfactory to his followers. He said just what all who know him well expected him to say. Those who regard the Reform leader as a mere politician, hungering and thirsting for office, and possessing no conscience higher than that of the tribe, must have been disappointed at his utterances. It must puzzle such critics to find him throwing away such a golden opportunity for buncombe, such a glorious chance for making political capital out of race prejudice and sectional feeling. The solution of this puzzle simply is that Mr. Blake is *not* such a man as they have fancied him to be. Up to the extent of his light he is a statesman, and a Christian one at that. The most notable feature of this speech, as of all he makes, was its lofty moral tone—a characteristic which shines out in striking contrast to the tone of many other political speeches made in Canada on both sides of the party line. Herein GRIP finds the ground-work of hope for this Dominion, notwithstanding the dangers which menace us from every side. So long as we have men amongst us of clean hands and pure hearts—men who believe in the God of Nations and are not ashamed or afraid to acknowledge His laws as the rule of their political action, Canada is safe. And just as surely the country is not safe—whatever its material prosperity—so long as it is guided by men who say, in deed if not in word, that there is no God, and that honor, truth, justice and mercy are phrases with which politics has no concern.

OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.—The best criticism that we have seen of Mr. Blake's speech is that of the *Toronto News*. While giving the orator all due credit for honesty and earnestness, and warmly commending his exposure of the corruption and extravagance of the Government—the *News* points out that Mr. Blake failed to propose any radical cure for the evils named. All that was suggested was to "turn the rascals out" and put the (presumably) honest men in. This would do well enough, provided the ingoing men were all and always honest. In short, under our present system of government, we are at the mercy of the private character of the Premier and his Ministers. If the Premier is an unscrupulous trickster—and Canada has known such—he can do just what he pleases under and by virtue of our form of government. Nominally he and his colleagues are responsible to the people, but by the judicious use of the three-fold power of the executive, the legislative and the judiciary functions, which are in his hands, he can

practically nullify this responsibility, and control both Parliament and the people. We have endeavored to put this system in pictorial form, and we hope the object-lesson may receive due study by our people. Meantime our Premier is for all practical purposes a Czar, and instead of Canada being a "progressive democracy," as Mr. John Cameron described it lately in an essay before the Liberal Club, it is more like an autocracy. It can be demonstrated that most of the corruption we complain of is the direct and natural outcome of the system, and the personal character of any possible premier and cabinet is too slender a thread whereon to hang the safety of a state.

THE UNSPEAKABLE MINISTRY.—Mr. M. C. Cameron has raised a great laugh at his own expense by including in his list of the "bribed" members of Parliament the Premier and his colleagues, on the ground that they receive salaries and are therefore "not likely to vote against themselves"!

SLOW TORTURE.—How poor Mr. Eunting must suffer for having allowed that article in behalf of the ill-used half-breeds to appear in the *Mail* last July. The *Globe* man, with fiendish malignity, has fastened that article up over the devoted head of John A., and is torturing him with it, drop by drop, day in and day out. Somebody will go crazy soon if this keeps on, but it will most likely be the *Globe's* "constant reader."

As We Pass By.

MAYOR HOWLAND has formally taken up the strings, and we are glad to note that the aldermen are in a-cord with him. Alderman Defoe, who was a warm supporter of Mr. Manning, proclaims himself foe of anybody who stands in his new Worship's way.

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THERE is some talk in Toronto in favor of high license as a restriction of the whiskey evil. Wherever high license has been tried it stands confessed a fraud. It simply strengthens the plausibility of the falsehood that the liquor crime is a legitimate business. Let high license advocates investigate Chicago or Omaha at the present moment if they want to be made sick. The emetic would do them good, no doubt of it.

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CAPITAL suggestion, that of establishing a pleasant place where working girls may spend their evenings safely and profitably. At present many a pure-hearted girl in Toronto is enduring the prison-life of a cheerless boarding house after work hours—having to choose between safety there and danger on the more attractive streets. This "long-felt want" ought to touch Mayor Howland deeply. Perhaps he can give the movement a start.

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MR. MOWAT declared at the London banquet that he had no hesitation in saying that "Mr. Blake's speech was the most magnificent he had ever read or heard in his life." Score a tremendous victory for Mr. Blake. This is the only thing that the Hon. Oliver ever said with "no hesitation." He actually didn't ask to be allowed to "take the matter into his consideration"!

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THE secret of Bradlaugh's popularity with the English Radicals is his very taking manner. A few days ago he took the oath, and now he has taken his seat. He proposes in the near future to take steps to take away the pensions upon which certain upper-ten leeches have long lived. This is the irreligion that they most abhor about Bradlaugh, and there will be a terrible fuss when the Iconoclast gets to work.