



AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF HUMOR AND CARICATURE.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

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PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and Canada.	To Great Britain and Ireland.
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One year, \$2.00; six months - \$1.00	One year - \$2.50
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Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send one-cent stamps only.  
MESSRS. JOHN HADDON & CO., Advertising Contractors, Fleet St., London, Eng., are the sole agents for GRIP in Great Britain.

Comments on the Estates.



OUR SHINING LEADERS.—The debate upon Col. O'Brien's motion in favor of the disallowance of the Jesuits' Estates Bill of Quebec, came to an end in Parliament on Thursday night, when the vote was taken, and an exact dozen of men stood up to be counted with the gallant member for Muskoka. Of the thirteen, six were Grits and seven Tories. The remaining members of the House, without distinction of "race, color, sex, or previous condition of servitude," voted to sustain the Government in its decision to allow the Act to become law. The debate was chiefly remarkable for the utterance of Sir John Thompson, who was the mouth-piece of the Government. This able

gentleman practically laid down the doctrine that the Roman Catholic Church is not to be subject to the supervision of the civil power in the same sense that other churches are, when it is necessary to adjust disputes within its pale referring to worldly property. In the case of Presbyterian or Baptist disputes about the division of moneys or lands, where arbitration is resorted to, it is necessary that the arbitrator be clothed with due power by the civil authorities; but Sir John Thompson plainly stated that no such arrangement would be accepted by the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope, and he alone, is the arbiter whose decision would be regarded as final. Upon this ground the Minister of Justice excused the worst feature of the Bill—the application of the Mercier Government to His Holiness for permission to dispose of the estates, and the reference to him of the final disposition of the proceeds. Speakers on the other side, notably Mr. Dalton McCarthy, clearly demonstrated that the Act was uncon-

stitutional in several points, and the argument against it, from the standpoint of public policy, was conclusive. Notwithstanding all which, both parties went almost *en masse* for the Jesuits. Hon. Edward Blake had nothing to say in defence of his vote, but gave a sufficient indication of the contempt in which he holds the opinion of "fanatics" like Principal Caven, by going across the floor and congratulating Sir John Thompson upon his speech. The Liberal members, apparently, voted against Col. O'Brien's motion on the general principle that Local Acts, regardless of their character, should never be vetoed. This Mr. Laurier declared to be "good liberal doctrine." The Conservatives voted the same way on the general principle that it is necessary to sustain John A. under any and all circumstances. The truth, no doubt, is, that both precious organizations were after the corporate vote, and it would be hard, after this exhibition, to mention any depth of humiliation to which they would not go to serve political ends. When we intimate that both leaders are willing to black the boots of the Ultramontane power, we feel it necessary to ask the pardon of the guild of boot-blacks, whose work is, at least, honest and void of shame.

A PROFESSIONAL DISCOUNT.—Mr. Peter Ryan, in a couple of manly letters to the *Globe*, intimates that he, as a Catholic, agrees with that journal on the unwisdom of introducing His Holiness the Pope into the public affairs of Canada. "And even Catholics," he adds, "are not one on the general question of granting bounties, or even restitution moneys, to religious corporations." These expressions were naturally applauded by the *Globe*, and the assertion was made that, in speaking thus, Mr. Ryan had the sympathy of many good Catholics, both clerical and lay. This called forth vigorous protests from Dr. Cassidy and other Catholic citizens, in letters to the *Globe*, and a series of interviews, conducted by the *World*, failed to reveal the name of even one such sympathizer. On the contrary, the general expression in Catholic quarters was that Mr. Peter Ryan was by no means an acceptable representative of Catholic doctrine, on this or any other question.



HE way in which, in a single sentence, Mr. Dalton McCarthy wiped out the peach-basket statesman from Lincoln, in the Jesuit Bill debate, was delicious. Although he is a member of the same party—and a useful member, too, when any dirty work is to be done—it is quite evident that Rykert is held at his proper valuation by Conservatives of good standing. There was a perceptible dash of contempt in Mr. McCarthy's quiet observation,—“As to what the member for Lincoln has said, I do not, of course, take it seriously.” This was an ample review of the long and truckling harangue in favor of unconstitutionality which the scrap-book orator had inflicted

on the House in his capacity of "an Orangeman." Everybody knows that a wag of Sir John's head would have been quite enough to have stopped Rykert in the middle of his speech and set him off in exactly the opposite direction.

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MISS COCKBURN, the charming daughter of the Member for Centre Toronto, who was lately "interviewed" in Washington, is, no doubt, as the interviewer states, one of the prettiest girls at the Capital, but it is evident that she is not so profoundly posted in the affairs of her native land as she might be. Amongst other delightful things, she told the Yankee newspaper man that her papa was "the leader of the Conservatives." Surely papa did not impose this Munchausenism upon his confiding child?

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THE sub-committee of the Committee on Works have reported in favor of the granting of a charter to the new street railway company for the construction of two