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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE QUEBEC VENDETTA.—Mr. Mercier seems to be playing a part in the Quebec drama something like that of Sapolo in the comic opera which so much amused our citizens a fortnight ago. He does not really hate Mr. Laurier politically; on the contrary, these nominally Liberal leaders are, at heart, it may easily be believed, very warm friends; but Mercier, like the "invertebrate nephew" Sapolo, finds himself at the head of a faction which is determined on the "fit-zoo-fooing" of Liberalism in

the Province, and Laurier is unfortunately the representative of that cause. Unless Mercier avails himself of every opportunity to pot a Liberal, there are "400 knives" awaiting him in Ultramontane hands. Well may he exclaim with Sapolo, "What a country this is!" And if at any time Laurier should find his friend's knife sticking in his back, he will, of course, understand that it has been placed there with "no unfriendly feeling."

THE VERY OBTUSE PROFESSOR.—Nobody has ever yet charged Prof. Goldwin Smith with being a dullard and a dunce, but he must be both if his utterances on the Henry George theory in a

late *Bystander* are to be accepted as being penned in good faith. Prof. Smith is not particularly famed as a humorist, and the deliverance alluded to was probably not intended as a burlesque. It certainly is a travesty, however. With an air of soberness the learned writer raises objection to Mr. George's statement that every child born into the world has a right to its fair share of the land—that is, of the raw material of nature. While not explicitly rejecting this proposition, *Bystander* professes to fail to see how that right can be vindicated, without an absurd and impossible division and redistribution of the land with the birth of every child. Mr. George's whole work for many years has been to show how it can be done by means of a single tax on the rental value of land. Has Mr. Smith read the books Mr. George has written? If not, he has no business to deal with the subject at all; if he has read them without being able to understand what their author proposes, then it certainly speaks poorly for the practical usefulness of an Oxford training.



BACHELORIAS is just now giving deep and anxious thought to the subject of Christmas boxes, but the malady is still more acute in the case of Bachelorus, who is all day thinking of his girl, and wondering just what sort of present would make the deepest impression on her heart. The problem, albeit blissful, is very wearing, and GRIP, with the paternal instinct which sits so gracefully upon him, feels like coming to the relief of his young friend. There are two important preliminary points to be settled in a case like this. First, What to get, and second,

Where to get it. Bachelorus, old boy, vex yourself no longer. There is an easy answer to the first of these questions. An outfit of magnificent diamonds is always in order, and can scarcely fail to please your girl, whatever her figure or complexion. Diamonds let it be, then. Query the second remains to be dealt with, and this is a point of scarcely secondary importance. So many houses are liable to sell you paste at the price of the genuine article, that you cannot be too careful. The surest pointer we can give you is a negative one, namely—*Don't* buy your diamonds at any establishment that does not advertise in GRIP. It *might* be all right, but you would be running awful chances!

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SPEAKING of Christmas, have you seen GRIP's COMIC ALMANAC FOR 1890? It is considered by connoisseurs to be the best of the series, and the connoisseurs are right, as usual. It is very cheap, too, considering its size and excellence—only ten cents. You can find nothing in the market better adapted for sending to friends abroad as proof positive that we are a lively, high-minded, intelligent and fun loving people.

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IT wouldn't be unsafe to bet that the gentlemen who have been for some time undergoing trial in Chicago for the alleged murder of the supposed Dr. Cronin, will escape conviction. As they are manifestly innocent—every one of them having been elsewhere when "a person or persons unknown" committed the murder—it