

Empire man, for instance. Perhaps this, too, is an invention. If so let it be similarly exposed, and without delay. It may be that the whole thing is, as the *Mail* insists, a plot on the part of the *Globe* and *Empire* to destroy the business standing of a rival. The *Mail* has only to prove this by such evidence as it has produced in the Dolph case; and the two papers in question will cease to be "rivals" to anything in the way of respectable journalism.

SINCE the above was written, both Mr. Bunting and Mr. Farrer have entered action for criminal libel against the Manager of the *Empire*. The truth will now be made known, and we can only repeat the hope that the result of the case will be to re-establish the *Mail* in the full confidence of the people it has served so well.

MEANWHILE, it is instructive, interesting and amusing to see how beautifully and unconsciously the *Empire* has given the lie to all the stuff it has been writing since its first issue against Reciprocity. With the monotonous drone characteristic of a hand-organ it has all along been declaring that Reciprocity is the sure road to Annexation, and therefore, even though it might be to the material advantage of Canada, no truly loyal person could possibly favor it. Now, the charge against Mr. Farrer is that he sought to prevent Reciprocity, so that Annexation might be brought about, and the *Empire* sent a commissioner all the way to Washington to substantiate this charge, if possible, and, as the editor now triumphantly asserts, he has established it! Henceforth, then, it is not disloyal to agitate for Reciprocity, which, the *Empire* being witness, is just what the Liberals have always claimed—the surest bulwark against Annexation.

MR. WIMAN, too, has suddenly become a very nice man and a highly respectable Canadian patriot in the opinion of Sir John's hand-organ, because he has made a statement which goes to strengthen the case against the *Mail*. The man at whose devoted head every adjective in the Billingsgate dictionary has been hurled on account of his alleged annexationist views, is all at once acknowledged to be really a determined enemy of Annexation. Everybody who knows anything of Mr. Wiman knows that he has always been so. The *Empire* now practically confesses that it has, since its birth, been what Archbishop Cleary would call a blind and ferocious party bigot, or, what is even worse, a base, deliberate slanderer. It is all very funny—but very sickening.

MR. MAYOR CLARKE has had another thousand added to his salary, making it the snug sum of \$5,000. This is not too much to pay for the entire services of a competent man, and such Mr. Clarke is believed to be by a good majority of the citizens of Toronto. If we may judge by his new message, his Worship proposes to give good measure for the price, as the document is the weightiest, in a material sense, that has ever come from the chief magistrate's office. It is weighty also in the other sense, and ably outlines the programme before the Council for the present year. We trust every member of that body will take a day off and read the message through. It will be a liberal education in civic affairs, and the result will be excellent if every member, after reading it, decides to help the Mayor to live up to it.

IT is suggested by a correspondent in one of the city papers that assessments of property for taxation purposes be made only once in five years instead of annually,

by which means the enormous expense of sending round twelve assessors and an equal number of assistants every year to do unnecessary work may be avoided. New buildings are really all that need to be assessed between times. This suggestion is worthy of consideration. In fact, the system proposed is now in vogue in several of the leading American cities. The ideal system, however, for attaining the maximum of civic revenue at the minimum of cost—and that without injustice as between citizens—is the single tax on land values.

WHAT may be Mr. Mulock's exact object in giving notice of his intention to move a truly loyal address to Her Majesty from the Canadian Parliament at the present juncture is something beyond conjecture. We will endeavor to sum up in cartoon form for next issue just what we think of the proposal, and we may now gently indicate that we consider it a piece of gratuitous grovel, well calculated, if acted upon, to earn for us the contempt of our old country relatives. No doubt Mr. Mulock means well; what he chiefly needs is good sense and true respect for his country.

SOME Canadian papers and public men seem to regard it as a mark of superfine loyalty to say mean things about the United States. To what infinitesimal microbian smallness these "loyalists" shrivel in the presence of Gladstone's noble words uttered the other day:

"No one outside of the United States is bound to love it more than I am." Pointing to numerous beautiful gifts from America, he said: "Everywhere I have practical expression of the tender thoughtfulness and kindness of the American people."

THE USUAL CAUSE.

MISS INTENSE—"What a fine, firm face Mr. Newly has."

MR. PRETENTS—"He has indeed. His facial muscles look as if they had been developed by struggling with boarding-house fare."

AT THE POKER CLUB.

NUEHAND (*facetiously*)—"I have seen my ante frequently to-night, but I haven't seen my uncle yet."

OLESHARK (*aside*)—"Oh, you will find mine uncle in the first shop around the corner when the game is over."



AN APOLOGY.

Two ladies are conversing, when a gentleman, making a misstep, falls on the pavement between them. "Excuse me, ladies," says he, "for thus unceremoniously breaking the thread of your discourse."