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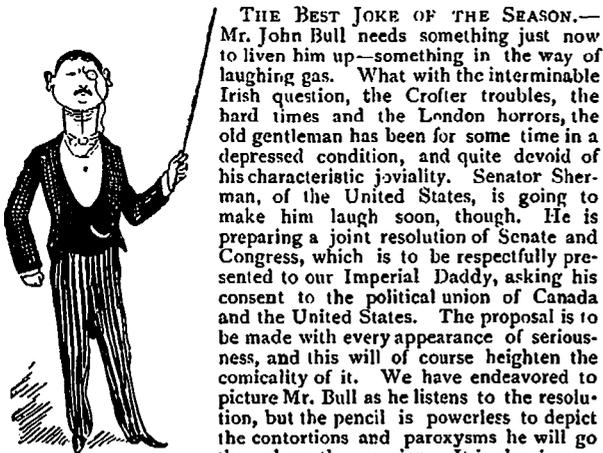
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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE BEST JOKE OF THE SEASON.—Mr. John Bull needs something just now to liven him up—something in the way of laughing gas. What with the interminable Irish question, the Crofter troubles, the hard times and the London horrors, the old gentleman has been for some time in a depressed condition, and quite devoid of his characteristic joviality. Senator Sherman, of the United States, is going to make him laugh soon, though. He is preparing a joint resolution of Senate and Congress, which is to be respectfully presented to our Imperial Daddy, asking his consent to the political union of Canada and the United States. The proposal is to be made with every appearance of seriousness, and this will of course heighten the comicality of it. We have endeavored to picture Mr. Bull as he listens to the resolution, but the pencil is powerless to depict the contortions and paroxysms he will go through on the occasion. It is also impos-

sible to convey in a picture any idea of the roar of laughter which will shake the tight little isle at this huge international joke. We confess it will not be perfectly polite for Mr. Bull to receive a grave diplomatic proposition in this boisterous manner, but how can you help smiling when you are coolly asked to give away half a continent, including a live nation, and quite a lot of valuable real estate?

STUMPED.—Mr. Côté's design is based upon the following dispatch which appeared in the dailies of October 3rd: "QUEBEC, Oct. 2nd.—L'Electeur's statements this morning leave

no doubt that the Mercier Government has decided to issue the disallowance proclamation in the case of the Magistrates' Bill and to establish a Magistrates' Court in Montreal under the Act of 1869, which was never and cannot now be disallowed. It claims this line of conduct to be the duty of the hour, as there was a regular plot concerted by the representatives of this Province in the Federal Government to force a conflict between their officer, the Lieutenant-Governor, and his advisers, and precipitate a Ministerial crisis, this being the true explanation of Mr. Taillon's remaining on the political scene. With information of this conspiracy in his possession, it says that Mr. Mercier will not lend himself to the enemy's game, and will submit for the time being to the requirements of the Constitution, reserving his right to afterwards fight the disallowance by all the constitutional means at his disposal. But as it is also his duty to restore order in the Montreal Courts, he will at once exercise the power conferred upon him by the law of 1869, and name a Magistrates' Court at Montreal, which the Federal Government cannot arbitrarily veto. This court will be presided over by Messrs. Barry and Champagne, who will be re-appointed."



BEFORE the *World* prints its next sensational exposure of 'Ras Wiman, it would be good policy for the editor to learn all the facts of the case. The laugh is entirely against the enterprising one-center on its latest "tremendous disclosure," since Wiman's explanation was made. The mountain has dwindled into a mole-hill so small as to be invisible to the naked eye.

THIS kind of blundering is the certain fate of a paper which follows personal malice as a regular policy. For some reason best known to itself, the *World* hates Erastus Wiman, and is only too eager to believe anything evil of him. Especially is it anxious to make out that Wiman is disloyal to Canada—a traitor and an annexationist. To accomplish this impossible task—for all the facts are notoriously opposed to the theory—the *World* will leave no stone unturned. It is a pitifully small business to be engaged in, and is simply making the paper ridiculous.

SO far as loyalty to Canada is concerned, Mr. Wiman can well afford to have his record placed alongside that of the *World*. When that journal can point to a single instance in which it has allowed loyalty to stand in the way of its own financial gain, it will be time enough for it to abuse a man who has retained his Canadian citizenship in the face of the constant and powerful pressure of his business interests. And the self-sacrificing efforts Wiman has for years made to enlarge the markets of Canadian producers and develop the resources of the country, will compare very favorably with the career of a paper which is, and always has been, devoted to the selfish interests of a narrow ring, as against those of the general public. Loyalty, forsooth!

SIR JOHN MACDONALD was in town last week looking more spry and springy than he did twenty odd years ago. Public business of some sort was his ostensible mission, but his real object in running up was evidently to depress the Grit leaders here by letting them see what a very long time they have yet to wait for his shoes.

WILL the Associated Press please give us a rest from all this nauseous rot and balderdash about the Emperor of Germany and his sayings and doings? Who