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Artist and Editor
Associate Editor

J. W. BENGOUGH.
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



Comments.

ON THE

Cartoons.

THE PET OF THE OPPOSITION—Mr. Tarte intimates that he has no sort of understanding with the Opposition in connection with the case against McGreevey; he remains, as he has always been, a straight Conservative, as distinguished from crooked Conservatives.

All the same, however, he must be regarded by the gentlemen on the left as a particularly sweet Tarte for the present, as he is mightily aiding their cause. If the real feelings of the Opposition could be openly expressed, some such scene as we have depicted would be witnessed in the vicinity of Mr. Laurier's desk.

"THESE HANDS ARE CLEAN."—Sir Hector Langevin has given a sweeping denial to the allegations brought by Mr. Tarte in so far as they affect himself or the Department of Public Works. He has closely paraphrased the historic utterance, "These hands are clean!" It will be known before long whether or not the phrase is entirely justified by the facts.

HIS OPINION OF HEREDITARY ARISTOCRACY.—Mr. Goldwin Smith has been having his say about "Aristocracy" before the Young Liberal Club. The lecture was up to the Professor's own standard in elegance of diction and terseness of thought, which is another way of saying that it was a rare literary treat. As might have been anticipated the lecturer took occasion to express once more his opinion as to the inutility of transplanting titles of chivalry to this side of the Atlantic, and especially those of hereditary rank. He appealed to his hearers to say whether the conferring of such titles had had the effect of inspiring the breasts thus decorated with a superior chivalry. In this connection he made a pointed reference to the methods adopted in the last election campaign by the holder of a baronetcy, which were sadly lacking in all those elements of manliness and valor which we associate with the Sir Galahads of romance. This argument is a fair one. Men who accept titles of chivalry must be judged by the rules of their order.



IT would be hard to write a sentence that would more scathingly arraign the morality of the day than that at the close of the *Globe's* reference to the late Mr. Purcell, of Cornwall, though it was not written with such an intention. "During his lifetime," says the *Globe*, "Mr. Purcell was even better than a generous man—he was an honest contractor, and his country owes him a debt of gratitude for the faithfulness with

which his work was done." In doing faithfully the work he was paid to do the deceased gentleman did no more than his duty, no more than the commonest kind of honesty would demand. Yet it was so remarkable that a special bonus in the shape of gratitude is demanded in addition to the contract price already paid. This ought to make a civilized, not-to say Christian, community blush.

* * *

IS the implied indictment of public contractors based on a true bill? We very much fear it is. The late investigations here in Toronto, and the enquiry now going on at Ottawa, give us a cue to the morality which is in vogue with men who undertake work for corporations; and our own observations have convinced us that contractors on a smaller scale are, as a general thing, conscienceless scamps. If you are getting a house built you will do well to stand by and watch every movement of the contractors and their men, be they carpenters, bricklayers, painters, plasterers or plumbers. You close your eyes for a moment at the risk of having some fraud thrust upon you. A more stupid bungler or perverse cheat than the average workman of the day is not to be found. There are, of course, exceptions here and there. We cannot believe that Mr. Purcell was absolutely alone. We imagine, however, that as a straight, honest, just, give-good-value workman in this world of business shams he was not inconveniently crowded.

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MR. ADAM BROWN appears to have "busted forth into poetry" when it came to parting with his friends in Jamaica. He concluded his speech in this magnificent style: