



The gravest seat is the Gae; the gravest bird is the Owl;
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

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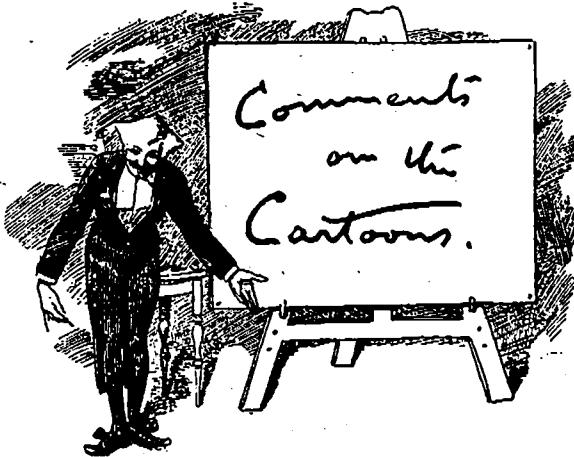
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TORONTO, SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1892.



THE IRISH INVITATION ACCEPTED.

"The Irish Parliamentary party unanimously invite you to accept an Irish seat at the general election.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY,
JOHN DILLON,
MICHAEL DAVITT,
T. M. HEALEY,
WM. O'BRIEN."

This cable message from Dublin was handed to Hon. Edward Blake one day last week, and having in some mysterious way got into the papers, has furnished food for gossip to the politicians all over the Dominion ever since. After due consideration Mr. Blake has indicated his acceptance of the invitation. Once in the Imperial House, his splendid talents will carry him to the front and he may confidently look for a great career. In the event of a Gladstonian victory in the general election—which seems a certainty—Mr. Blake will in all probability be taken into the Cabinet, where his advice upon the drafting of a Home Rule measure would certainly be invaluable. Regrets are expressed in advance at his leaving Canada, and he could no doubt be of great service here. But for some reason he doesn't feel disposed

to take part in our political affairs. Perhaps the suggestion that he has all along felt the sphere of colonial statesmanship too narrow for him, may be pretty near the truth. The people of Canada—if they are fairly represented in the election returns—have plainly indicated that they prefer a Government of boodling nonentities to a Cabinet of men like Blake, and they deserve no consideration from him. The prospect across the ocean must be, on the other hand, very alluring. Though he will enter the House merely as a member of the Irish Party, no Canadian doubts that Mr. Blake will soon be recognized as something broader and greater than that. So far as we know the men now to the fore, we have no hesitation in saying that Blake would rank first after Gladstone as a Parliamentarian, and in such an arena he would shed more glory on Canada than he ever could at Ottawa.

OLIVER THE GOOD AND HIS WICKED PARTNERS.—In so far as the bestowal of a knighthood indicates the Queen's respect for the character of Oliver Mowat, Her Majesty's act is heartily endorsed by the people of Canada without distinction of party. The hon. gentleman has recently been made the recipient of addresses in which this idea is strongly conveyed. His frequent appearances of late on the lecture platform, and especially in connection with the subject to which he has been devoting attention—the Christian religion—has unquestionably tended to heighten his popularity. Warm words were recently spoken in his praise as a temperance man by a member of the Methodist Conference of Niagara district, who happened himself to be a Conservative. All of which is greatly to Sir Oliver's credit. But meanwhile his wicked partner is at work looking after the practical politics end of the business. We have reason to believe that the charge frequently made, that license-holders are more or less gently squeezed for contributions to the funds of the Reform Party of Ontario, are true. Sir Oliver may not know this, but he does know that his Government is a license government, which it ought not to be. It is alleged that the Province has the constitutional right to prohibit the traffic; in that case Sir Oliver should cast out the traffic altogether. If we do not possess the right, it ought to be secured, and so good a temperance man should devote himself to securing it.

THE Rev. Dr. Douglass seems to have constituted himself Tribune of the People and Censor-in-General of Parliament. His deliverances in this high capacity are always eloquent and are generally well worthy of attention. We scarcely see what useful end he hoped to serve, however, by his onslaught upon Sir John Thompson before the Niagara Conference of the Methodist Church a few days ago. He vehemently insists that Sir John shall not be allowed to become ruler of the Dominion—which, by the way, he virtually is already—not because he is a Roman Catholic, but because he was not born such. The Dr. has no objection to a Roman Catholic as such, so long as he is not a "pervert." Accordingly, he expresses a high opinion of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier,

