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### Comments on the Cartoon.



SHE'S OUTGROWN HER DRESS.—

Almost every Canadian journal has something to say just now about the Destiny of the Country, and the debate is going on actively outside of the editors' sanctums as well. One thing seems to be tacitly admitted by all the disputants—that our present relationship to the mother country certainly cannot endure very much longer. We must become something greater and better than a colony before the aspirations which are beginning to awake in the hearts of Canadians can be satisfied. The most natural development for us is into an Independent Nation. This is also the only practicable settlement of the unrest. If, when we have given the experiment

a fair trial, we have to confess that we are incapable of conducting our own affairs—the only Anglo-Saxon community that has ever been obliged to make such a confession—it will be time enough to begin discussing Annexation. As to Imperial Federation, as at present proposed, it is too dim and shadowy to deserve serious notice. The praiseworthy sentiment which underlies it, and lends it whatever claim to attention it possesses, can be conserved just as well with Canada a nation as a colony. We are not likely to change radically in our feelings toward Great Britain after we have said good-bye to our last Governor-General, and formally severed the gentle ties of red tape which now constitute the "connection." Parting from Britain in peace and brotherhood, we will be as heartily willing to go in for a Federation of Anglo-Saxons as we are ever likely to be under existing conditions—supposing that some political genius is sometime able to evolve a scheme which strikes us favorably. If by a miracle of filial impiety our present love turns to hate, we are not likely to display our hostility in any more harmful way than

in putting tariff taxes on John Bull's iron and stuff. At present we do something in this line under the head of loyalty, so we may console ourselves that the old gentleman won't mind, being used to it.

SCENE FROM KING JOHN A.—Notwithstanding the strong feeling of the people generally against the Bill passed by the Quebec Legislature to endow the Jesuit Society with \$400,000 in settlement of an alleged claim to certain estates in that Province, and in the face of formidable petitions urging its disallowance, the Federal Government has declined to use the veto power. The haste with which this business has been despatched is in marked contrast to the customary blue-mould policy of the Government, and may be accounted for by the fact that the Orangemen of the country were known to be engaged in getting up additional petitions against the royal assent being given to the measure. The excuse given by the Dominion Government, that the Bill was not *ultra vires* of the Provincial authorities, is worth nothing, as the contention of Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues has always been that the power of Disallowance may be exercised to protect the general interests of the Dominion, whatever the character of the legislation that may threaten the same. The Jesuit Bill comes easily within this description; it strengthens a Society which is generally believed to be inimical to the State; it approves of the voting of public money for denominational purposes; and it endorses the principle that money so voted may be disbursed in accordance with the wishes of a foreign potentate. Is the innocent and unsophisticated citizen puzzled to know why such a questionable measure is approved by the Government which so firmly suppressed the comparatively harmless Rivers and Streams Bill of Ontario and the altogether useful Railway Acts of Manitoba? The corporate vote is what makes the difference. Our Government, it seems, must give the Roman Catholic Church anything it sees fit to demand, or take the consequence of refusing. That consequence, in this case, Sir John believes, would be the upsetting of the Government, which, of course, is not to be thought of. It would probably have been just the same had the other party been in power, and the question which arises just here, and which must be settled some day, is, "What are we going to do about this corporate vote?"

THE self-sacrificing efforts of poor Knox-Little to bring back the Middle Ages are really pathetic. Of course the job is quite beyond him, but his unconsciousness of this trifling fact is one of the most touching things about him. In his zeal to convert the world to second-hand popery he is forgetful of all minor matters. This is why he has never thought of petitioning Parliament to relieve him of the name of *Knox*, which, if he only knew it, is potent enough to render all his efforts futile, by its fine old Protestant flavor.

REV. MR. JEFFREY, in his lecture on "Get Up, How?" the other evening, pointed out the importance of practical energy to develop and make the most of natural gifts. "A Budget," said he, "might make a penny into a fortune!" Perhaps Budgets that are spelled that way might, but the Budget at Ottawa seems decidedly to work the other way.



OPENING of Parliament is always the occasion of a bit of childish humbug on the part of "Government organs," in the shape of a forecast of the Speech from the Throne, which appears in the issue of the paper next preceding the opening ceremony. For some reason, which is beyond ordinary comprehension, the editor pretends to be merely guessing at the "probable" contents of the Speech, though, as everybody knows, he has the printed document before him while he writes. Isn't it about time that this paltry sort of falsehood was abolished?