

The Jester,

A COMICAL AND SATIRICAL RECORD OF THE TIMES: ILLUSTRATED: WEEKLY.
The JESTER is published every Friday. Fred J. Hamilton & Co., Proprietors.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1879.

Those subscribers who do not get their paper regularly, will oblige by addressing a postal card to P. O. Box 905, or at the office 162 St. James Street.

PERSONAL.

Our Mr. George Maynard is about to pay a visit through Ontario. Such attention as he may receive will be esteemed a favor.

TWELVE MONTHS OLD.

With this number the JESTER enters upon the second year of his existence. It has required very careful nursing to enable him to brave the vicissitudes of the past year. Soon after his birth he took a severe cold with sundry fit of wheezing and shortness of breath, and for many anxious weeks it was thought his life was in danger. But, fortunately, the anxiety has, in a large measure, subsided. He is now getting strong enough to walk alone, and manages to keep his feet with tolerable firmness. Those who feel an interest in the prolongation of his career—the usefulness of which has been generally admitted—cannot do better than renew their subscriptions (\$1.25) in order to strengthen his constitution and afford him the means of entering upon a larger field of usefulness. Those who do not subscribe will confer a favor by doing so now, as it is pretty well known that the young infant is always ready to do his best towards assisting in the amusement of others. He has been vaccinated by two physicians, and the Public can rest assured that they are perfectly free from moral infection or contagion in any shape. The JESTER will continue to tread the path which has been mapped out for him, without fear, favor or affection, and it is hoped the Public will assist him in his useful mission.

PLEASE OBLIGE.

When Mr. Vennor is again afflicted by the Spirit of Prophecy he will confer a great favour upon our numerous readers and the Public generally, by locating the territory, district, city, section or township in which the prediction is to pan out. We need scarcely point out to Mr. Vennor's keen notions of accuracy, and strict sense of justice, the unfairness of selecting, say a snow-storm in Nova Scotia as a proof of his gift of divination, which common belief had supposed to have related to Toronto or Montreal. But, really, any part of the Country seems to suit our local Seer, and it is about time that this generality business assumed a more definite shape; determined not by coincidences, but by actual fulfilment within a given radius. But then you can no more restrict a Prophet in his vaticinations, when the spell is on him, than you can a Poet in his wildest moods.

HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT?

A minister at a recent social expressed his unqualified disapproval of being brought in contact with uneducated ministers, which sentiment was heartily endorsed by his brother clergymen present. Well, gentlemen, what will you say to the fact when a student, of that same denomination, who imagined that he had a "call," was permitted to partially pass his first year with the option of coming up again, without knowing *the first principles of grammar*, and this actually happened at one of our so-called Montreal "Theological Colleges." And now that young man is on a "preaching tour." Probably when the Professor has had his house in the suburbs nicely finished (for there is no better mechanic in the country than this young "student" in his special line) he will doubtless see that this mechanical preacher gets through all right. If this is to be the mode pursued by the Theological Colleges of the future, the sooner they put on their prospectus, "Studies taken out in Trade"—the better, for then everyone will know what kind of ministry they are to expect. Our only reason for not mentioning names is out of respect for the gentleman who so ably fills the office of President, whom we are sure is in ignorance of the facts. We intend to expose shams every time, and this is one of the clearest case of shams that has come under our notice for many a day.

OUR CLERICAL DICTIONARY.

EPISCOPAL.

Bishop—A gentleman distinguished by a Quaker costume; who is erroneously supposed to be a "Lord," but isn't.

A Dean—One whose executive ability has hitherto been confined to keeping the Bishop straight.

A Canon—One of good report, but who never goes off—except to Europe on a holiday—and who has, on the whole, a pretty good time of it. A kind of "go-between" between the Dean and Bishop.

A Rector—This official's position is exceedingly difficult to define, very much depending upon the temper of his churchwardens. If he lives in a city he may be said to have a living, anyway; but if he lives in the country he soon finds there is no living to be had—according as the state of the Mission Fund may direct.

A Curate—An unfortunate individual who can only wear one pair of slippers at a time, and in whose breast the secrets of the lady members are always supposed to be confided.

A Priest—One whose church views are usually supplemented by a cassock.

A Rural Dean—One who can tell by personal observation the smallest sum on which a country clergyman can live without starving.

A Churchwarden—One who thinks the safety of the church is centred principally in himself.

A Chancellor—An officer who gives his legal opinions, gratis, and who finds that they are seldom, if ever, acted upon.

A Treasurer—One who is continually employed in trying to subtract fifteen hundred dollars from a thousand and calculating how much remains.

A Synod—Supposed to be the periodical gathering of clergy and laity for the transaction of business, but in reality a very convenient means of ascertaining the exact balance of Party.

An Executive Committee—A body of gentlemen who are supposed to assist the Treasurer in his calculations.

A Verger—Generally the most independent man in the Church, with a large family depending upon him for support. Usually an old soldier.

Printed Reports—Expensive series of publications setting forth the manner in which the deficit is arrived at.

PRESBYTERIAN.

A Moderator—One who holds extreme views on the Westminster Confession.

A Conveuer—A kind of Chairman of the Committee, who thinks it is the duty of the members to do as he wishes.

Church Courts—Labyrinths in which those holding liberal views on doctrinal subjects manage to escape public censure.

A Precentor—A person who has a large ear for music, and who is chiefly remarkable for the tenacity with which he clings to his notes.

An Elder—One who never smiles; who presides when the minister is absent, and who keeps a close eye on the collection plate.

A General Assembly—A very convenient season for blowing off the unhealthy gases which may have accumulated during the year. A complex gathering of church personages with confused notions of Church Discipline. (See *Church Discipline*.)

Church Discipline—Sundry rules for the government of the Church, which are fast becoming more honored in the breach than the observance.

METHODIST.

A Bishop—A gentleman one seldom hears of, and who exercises no authority whatever.

A Conference—A yearly gathering of parsons whose principal objects are the submission of statistics setting forth the increase in their families during the past year, and the getting of themselves photographed.

A President—One who is supposed to hear all and say nothing.

A Deacon—One who is generally selected for his business qualifications. One over whom you will have to get up pretty early to discount in the matter of making a bargain.

CONGREGATIONAL.

A Union—An Annual Meeting where everybody thinks as he likes; says what he pleases, and governs himself accordingly.

N. B.—This denomination has proved a serviceable feeder to Presbyterianism owing to the facility it possesses for a change of conviction. The utmost liberty is allowed its ministry in this particular.

REFORMED EPISCOPAL.

The last refuge of those who have become discontented in other churches.

Its Doctrine—Neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, possessing no distinctive features, and thoroughly independent in everything—except means.

UNIVERSALIST.

The most popular and pleasing method of getting rid of one's ultimate responsibility for one's own misdeeds. Its platform is too broad to prevent anyone ever falling away, or getting lost.