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Comments on the Cartoons.



PREPARING FOR WAR.—The speech from the throne announced the intention of the Government to commence at once the building of the new Sault Ste. Marie canal, as a precautionary measure in view of the possible suspension of good relations between Canada and the United States. A day or two after the speech was read, the House was authoritatively informed that the public debt is at present \$223,000,000, and the deficit for the year somewhere about \$6,000,000. In the face of this latter revelation, it is surely the height of folly and madness to proceed with the costly work upon this new canal, unless it is clearly an absolute necessity. The people of Canada are in no mood to witness the squandering of additional millions if it can be avoided, and they have a right to be informed whether, in this case, every reasonable and honorable step has been taken to preserve the peace with our American neighbor. Bombastic jingoism is all well enough in melo-dramas, but in this business-like age common-sense is a more valuable quality in a government. It is to be hoped that our present rulers appreciate this, and foresee the incalculable harm that would certainly befall Canada in case President Cleveland felt it his duty to put the Retaliation Bill into operation. The most we can do is to hope, however, for our Government has not seen fit to enlighten their alleged masters, the public, as to the progress of the discussion on the fishery question, and Canadians who realize the seriousness of the position, may be excused if they are troubled by misgivings as to the wisdom and prudence of the men who have already bred a rebellion in our own country.

IL TROVATORE.—Whatever may be thought as to Mr. Blake's capacity for government, it is hardly to be questioned that he would to-day be Premier of Canada had it not been for the timely invention of that marvellous party machine—the Revising Barrister.

A CHANCE FOR DISALLOWANCE.—Sir John has shown himself an adept at using his powers of disallowance, though unfortunately he has generally brought it into requisition to thwart the will of the people when there was no justification for his action. He is armed with the veto power for the purpose of defending the general interests of the country, and we make bold to say that these interests are plainly threatened by the bill now being passed in Quebec to incorporate the Jesuits. As well might the Ancient Order of Dynamiters be incorporated in any free country. The Jesuits are such a pestilence that every Catholic land in the world has driven them out, and Canada should not be the first to do them honor. Let Sir John show that the veto power has some justification, by using it on this dangerous measure.

THE COERCION BILL.—Salisbury's Coercion Bill has reached its final stage, and in our view it is simply an invitation to the Irish people to rise in rebellion. The predicament in which Parnell has been placed by the *Times* letter concerns him alone. If the letter is genuine it proves Parnell to be a dangerous and extreme man, but it does not affect the question as to the justice and wisdom of granting Home Rule to Ireland, however partisans may strive to mix the issues.

THE TWO-HEADED PARTY.—The latest news from the seat of Chapeau-Langevin war, represents the latter distinguished statesman still holding his own. Chapeau has not as yet been hailed as leader by the French Conservatives in the House, as was anticipated; the rivals appear to be about on a par. Meanwhile their followers present a very absurd appearance.

WALKING HOME FROM THE MEETING.

THE light of the moon through the dark of the night
Fell down on our faces and mellowed our sight,
And shimmered and shivered, and flooded the skies,
Like the love-light which flooded our soul and our eyes;
And the sheen of the stars was the splendor of noon,
As we walked from the meeting that evening in June.

There lurked the sweet touch of an unfathomed grace
In the touch of her hand, in the blush on her face,
And the fire round my heart leapt in words to my lips,
As I felt her soul thrill to the pulses and tips
Of her fingers, the soul in her eyes half aswoon,
Walking home from the meeting that evening in June.

We paused at the gate in a tremor of bliss,
And my soul swept to hers in a lingering kiss
Which mingled our spirits, and blended our eyes
On a future of sweeter and sunnier skies,
Ah! Love like a siren sang many a tune
To our hearts and our fancies, that evening in June.

The years have grown grey, and the nights and the moons
Have lived and have died, and the cord which attunes
My heart to my fancy is broken, but still
It vibrates and quivers with tremulous thrill,
When the present is linked by the rays of the moon
To the past—and that passionate evening in June.

BESSIE RYERSON.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"ONLY a Laboring Man" is the title of a good song, written and composed by the popular character vocalist, Mr. James Fax. The song ought to have a great run, now that the labor question is to the fore.

MRS. S. A. CURZON, whose dainty pen has so often pleased our Canadian public, has in press a volume of poems to be published shortly by subscription. Its leading attraction will be a dramatic poem entitled "Laura Secord, the Heroine of 1812," in which the well authenticated achievements of this noble woman are worthily honored. All who wish to secure the volume may do so by addressing the authoress at 41 Belle Vue Avenue, Toronto. The price is \$2.50 and \$1.75 according to binding.