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Artist and Editor
Associate EditorJ. W. BENGOUGH.
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



GRIP'S SOLUTION.—The "finger of scorn" is steadily levelled at Canada from all points of the compass, and will continue to be so levelled until we have done something to prove that government by boodle is not in accordance with our will as a people. On the theory that public opinion is represented by Parliament, these foreign critics of ours have every right to conclude that we not only approve but enthusiastically admire rascality in politics, for our "representatives" so declared by their votes in the face of the revelations. Now, the only course left for us is to show the world that these fellows do *not* represent us. It will be no rehabilitation of our national character to reorganize the Cabinet,

even if it is found possible to eliminate from it every tainted member. The House still remains tainted, and it must be made clean from cellar to garret. Mr. Abbott should resign, and let the country deal with the whole question. It is kind of him, of course, to be willing to serve us as Premier, and to undertake the Herculean labor of cleaning out the stables. We appreciate his kindness, but would prefer not to trouble him. The job is much beyond his power, or that of any other man in the Government. An appeal to the people is at once the only adequate and the only constitutional remedy. These considerations apply with equal force to the Government of Quebec, which happens to be of the opposite political stripe. Even if it secures a technical acquittal at the hands of the Commissioners who are investigating the Pacaud scandal, it has, we fully believe, lost the confidence of the Province. These two Governments have overwhelmed Canada with shame. So long as they remain in power that shame will last. We demand their expulsion, and if Messrs. Abbott and Mercier have not enough consideration for us to resign

voluntarily, then we call upon the representatives of the Crown to exercise the royal prerogative, and compel them to that step.

"CHURCH AND STATE."—Mr. Chapleau's ill-considered tirade against the Protestant ministers who have spoken out in condemnation of the boodlers, has been sufficiently answered. His remarks were intended for the Protestant pulpit, but surely similar expressions of disgust have been spoken from Roman Catholic altars. If not, so much the more shame for that Mother Church. Nothing more severe could be said of it than that it teaches such a religion as Chapleau seems to believe in—something which concerns itself with the soul of man, while closing its eyes to all considerations of practical right and wrong in this present world.



LAST issue but one we had something to say about the Annexation movement at Windsor, and in that connection expressed our dissent from the programme of the annexationists. A correspondent (who duly encloses his name and address as an evidence of good faith,) takes us up in the following fashion:

DEAR GRIP,—In your editorial remarks on Mr. Sol. White's speech, in your issue of the 10th inst., you say, "There are no advantages of any kind to be gained by political union with the States, which would not be as fully secured by the mere removal of the tariff wall."

Considering the great political weight which your paper has acquired, it will not do to allow your utterances to be regarded as simply the chaff of the clown who is pictured at the head of your "Comments," and as an old friend and supporter, I would like to ask you just one question.

Do you really believe that under any mere treaty arrangement, terminable as treaties are and must necessarily be, that we would attract the same amount of American capital and enterprise, that would be certainly drawn here, were absolute and permanent "Free Trade" assured by Annexation?

It is not necessary for me to point out to you that, to attract capital for investment in railways, mines or manufacturing establishments, the permanence of the conditions under which they are to be established, is a matter of the very first importance. It would seem to me, therefore, that while the barley, egg, lamb, horse and other interests might be greatly benefited by unrestricted reciprocity, that we might lose many of our present manufactures, and by not affording those who might be willing to establish others for which the country might present special natural advantages, any security that free trade would last beyond the next general election, we would fail to induce others to take their place. I remain, etc, F.M.

* * *

WHILE opposed to Annexation, GRIP is not of those who would prohibit the discussion of that, or any other question. This letter is courteous and well written, and deserves an answer. Our reply is, we must take the risk indicated. Reciprocity, when secured, would not be abrogated by Canada unless it proved a greater disappointment than protection has proved. This is simply impossible. We know from experience how good a thing it is. But might not the States do the abrogating, as they did before? Not likely, if the treaty is a fair and square free-trade deal (which the former one was not). Reciprocity will benefit both countries and neither will think of repealing it. That is our conviction. Let us at all events try it, before we even think of giving up our nationality.

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THE Lister demonstration at Sarnia, ended in a great oratorical bout, before thousands of the yeomanry in the open air. Lister made the speech of the day—a long and vigorous deliverance it was, too. "I am speaking under great difficulties," said he, shortly after he got started, "as the wind is in my face." But he went ahead like a house a-fire, notwithstanding. It seems to be generally agreed that Lister is one of the coming men.