



THE FAVORED PEOPLE.

CHRISTIAN—"You Jews are certainly a wonderful people; especially in business pursuits."

ISRAELITE—"Ve are. And vy? Ven de plague of flies was sent on de Egyptians, de chil'ren of Israel vent free. Dere vos no flies on dem in de plague; and has been no flies on dem efer since!"

But no great apprehension need be felt. We, GRIP hereby forestall the sovereign Pontiff by declaring in advance of February that America is and shall remain a free country religiously, neither Protestant, Catholic, Jewish nor Agnostic. Our authority for making this *ex-cathedra* announcement is in every respect as good and valid as any Leo XIII. can possess. The one will neutralize the other, and so things will remain in *statu quo*.

L T.-COL. DENISON declares himself with characteristic vigor against "this nonsensical Henry George Single-Tax business." "What!" exclaims the Colonel, "take the rental value of land in the shape of taxes? It would be outrageous robbery, sir! How did the Denison landed estate come to have rental value? By the hard, earnest and ill-requited toil of my grand old ancestors, who settled here when the land wasn't worth anything." The Colonel has good reason to be proud of his ancestry, but we're afraid that their hard toil wouldn't really have brought much *rental* value to the land if population hadn't somehow found its way here. Where would that value be if the population of Toronto departed tomorrow? Think this over, Colonel, between cases.

THE London *Advertiser* learnedly discusses the question "Is pessimism increasing?" After weighing philosophically the exceptional and the recondite, the psychological entanglements and other things, the erudite editor concludes that "men love as deeply, feel pleasure as keenly and enjoy their happiness as fully as they ever did." This is going too far in the optimistic direction. Does the *Tiser* mean to say, without qualification, that Sir Richard and the boys of No. 6 at Ottawa really enjoy life as much as they did for a few years before Sir John worked his little N.P. game on them? Nay, verily!

AN eminent French physician has just declared that a "good cry" is, under certain conditions, most beneficial physically. However this may be, our politicians

are entirely convinced of the benefits of a "good cry" at election times.

MR. DALTON MCCARTHY intimates his belief that Messrs. Chapleau and Mercier are planning a joint raid on the Dominion treasury in the interests of Quebec. Fortunately for us there is nothing in the safe just now but a big deficit, which it would be hardly worth their while to carry off. By the way, Mr. L. Côté has treated this subject in an amusing cartoon which we hope to publish next week.

FORMAL THANKS.

ALDERMAN GILLESPIE having, with his usual good sense, put an end to the silly custom of presenting each retiring alderman with a vote of thanks embossed at an aggregate cost of some \$1,500 per year, MR. GRIP sees an opening for some printer to turn an honest penny by supplying the city authorities with blank forms to the following effect:

CARD OF THANKS.
CITY HALL, Jan. 1, 18..

To.....
Retiring Alderman.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you the following vote passed by the City Council at its last meeting.

.....
City Clerk.

"Moved by..... seconded by.....
Resolved that we are sorry to part with Ald.
and take this opportunity of thanking him for the statesmanlike ability, unswerving honesty, consummate devotion, untiring energy, etc., with which he has performed his duties as a member of this council for the year 18 .."

Signed on behalf of the Council.
.....
Mayor.

These blank forms could be printed on plain or colored paper of fair quality, size about 6 x 12, and supplied at the rate of say 10 cents per 100. They would be as valuable morally as the old style engrossed documents, and at the same time would effect a great saving of time and money.



CORRECTED.

SMITH—"Why, it is as plain as the nose on your face."
DE SMYTHE—"Or, rather, on *your* face!"