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Comments

ON THE

Cartoons.

AN OBLIGING DOMINIE.

—The feeling is universal that there is something in the political wind just now. Most of the weather-wise believe that something to be the general election. Sir John and his colleagues are scurrying to and from like a lot of stormy petrels

presaging the political tempest. The great and masterful Tupper has left the seclusion of his fashionable quarters in the West End of London and is at this writing on the breast of the briny ocean, with the ship's prow pointed hitherwards. The mercury in the barometer is falling. There is something up, for a fact. But how can it be the general election? When the amendments to the Franchise Act were under discussion at the last session of the House, Hon. J. A.

happeau, Secretary of State, made a somewhat elaborate statement of the constitutional rules governing a dissolution of this Parliament. He pointed out that the term of the present House would naturally expire in March, 1892, but that in 1891 the decennial census was to be taken, and before the House dissolved a redistribution measure based on the new census would have to be passed. Hon. Peter Mitchell followed with a careful annotation of the speech just delivered, and nailed the minister down to the statement that there would be two more sessions of the present House, one in 1891, and the other in '92, after the census. On putting the question point blank to Sir John, Mr. Mitchell received a reply which had an evasive sound about it, to the effect that the Government could not say how the Governor-General might use his prerogative in the premises. There the matter dropped. Now, notwithstanding the signs and symptoms of the moment, it is hard to believe that there is any seri-

ous intention of bringing on the elections before '92. The Governor-General has a constitutional right to refuse such a request and there is no ground on which to base an argument in its favor, excepting the exigencies of party, which Sir John is not likely to mention. There are several good reasons against a dissolution, however. In the first place the voters' lists are old and out of date, and ought in all fairness to be revised before another appeal to the country; secondly, the census will make a considerable difference in the representation; and thirdly, it will be necessary to hold another general election in 1892, after the census has been taken, in any event. On the whole, as Lord Stanley is rather a sensible sort of head master, the chances are that he will not consent to set aside the rules of the school just to oblige the boys.

FROM "ERMINIE" (AND QUEBEC).—Mr. Dalton McCarthy, who ought to be a reliable authority on such a point, has publicly informed us that Messrs. Mercier and Chapleau have joined forces for a raid on the Dominion treasury. The antecedent probability of this is very strong, for the sons of Quebec are always ready to drop their party differences where the interests of the Province demands united action, and the finances at Quebec are certainly in a pretty pickle just now. Mr. Foster must wake up and keep a sharp eye on that deficit of his while these predatory gents are around.



ALTHOUGH everything indicates that the Grand Old Conservative Party is beginning to squint in the direction of Reciprocity, we were hardly prepared for so violent a wrench to the old traditions as that given by the Chieftain and his entertainers at the Albany Club at a dinner a few evenings ago. We learn from the daily papers that the only toast drunk on the occasion was that of "Our Guest." The Queen and Royal Family, the Army and

Navy, and all the other loyal and patriotic staples were ruthlessly chucked away. If this sort of thing goes on the Grand Old Conservative Party will soon be altogether more shocking in its disloyalty than the unspeakable Grits.

* * *

THE Toronto detachment of these latter bad and dangerous people have moved into a new club house. It is situated on the north side of Adelaide Street, a short distance east of Yonge. The internal fittings are all in very good taste, a Conservative decorator having, no doubt, been engaged to do the job. The unique feature of the club is the shape of the dining room, which is that of a right angle. On state occasions, when the tables are spread to the full capacity of the room, the vice chairmen and their near neighbors will be shut off from each others' view by a solid corner of wall. On enquiring into the why and wherefore of this queer arrangement it was explained to us that the object in view was to preserve the harmony of the party, by preventing the left hand, or temperance section, from knowing what the right hand or imbibing section were doing on these festive occasions.

* * *

IN the good old days of Drake, Nelson, Wellington and the others, Great Britain was in the habit of taking any country she had a fancy for by force of arms. If the glory of the empire, as then understood, had not entirely passed away, our enterprising journals would probably be enjoying a boom just now chronicling the events of the war which would be raging along the American frontier. John Bull evidently wants the United States. But, as the sneering Frenchman said, the British have become a nation of shopkeepers, and the line of attack is now commercial instead of military. The weapons are not swords but syndicates. The campaign is going on