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Comments on the Gestaing.



KNOX PREACHING BEFORE QUEEN MARY.—The excellent service Principal Caven is doing in the present controversy over the Jesuit Bill is worthy of the grand name associated with the college over which he presides. The shade of Knox must look on approvingly, for we can well believe that were the great Scotsman here in the flesh, he would be doing, in his own energetic fashion, just what Principal Caven is doing so well. The Principal is known as one of the most cautious, sagacious, and considerate of men, and this reputation adds vastly to his influence in the present affair. We suspect that his determined stand had not a little to do with the deciding of the *Globe's* course, and it has

unquestionably aroused the interest of the great body of Presbyterians throughout the country. With characteristic clearness of vision, Dr. Caven has grasped the salient points of the controversy, and, as usual, he has succeeded in making them equally clear to the public. These points are: 1st, That by the objectionable Bill, State funds expressly set aside for educational purposes, are perverted to other uses; 2nd, They are devoted to Church purposes, a use which should never be made of any State funds whatever; and 3rd, The authority of a foreign potentate is recognized in Canadian civil affairs. In all these respects, it will be seen, the Bill antagonizes great principles of government, which have heretofore been regarded in Canada as sound. The veto power in our Constitution was meant to guard

just such principles. It has no other legitimate use. And now that it is called for, the men who have time and again put it in operation against Provincial Acts which were harmless, refuse to use it on the ground that, dangerous as it may be, this Act is technically within the jurisdiction of Quebec. Dr. Caven's position is that of a statesman who looks at the larger question, but we are afraid his wisdom is thrown away upon the "practical politicians" now in charge of our affairs.

HEAVEN-BORN FINANCING.—It is just as well that nobody takes the House of Commons seriously, or it would be bad for Canada's reputation for common-sense. That august assembly has voted, by the usual automatic majority, that the three per cent. loan business is all right, and that the Minister of Finance has not put his foot in it. But majorities do not alter facts, and in this case the stubborn fact remains that the Dominion must either live up to the prospectus issued in connection with this loan, and purchase at least \$2,000,000 worth of the stock annually, whatever its market price may be,—or repudiate the bargain, and take the moral consequences. The whole ugly mess is, however, just what might be expected as the result of the slipshod system of government at present in vogue. With an irresponsible High Commissioner in London, at liberty, apparently, to act as the proxy of responsible ministers here, and indulge in any sort of financial kite-flying that may suit his peculiar taste, what wonder is it that awkward scrapes should be got into? So far as it yet appears, Sir Charles Tupper was the sole author of the present muddle, and Mr. Foster was either too innocent of finance or too blind to see the trouble he had been brought into. This will not relieve him from the responsibility, of course; neither will the voting down of Sir Richard Cartwright's motion. The English investor remains to be reckoned with, and he can be confidently trusted to teach us in due time that a prospectus is a document whose terms are to be taken seriously.

IF Col. Geo. T. Denison isn't more careful with his jaw-bone, there will soon be a general demand for his disestablishment and disendowment. The excellent but injudicious gentleman seems to have got into the habit of wearing his cavalry boots on the Bench.

THEY have found the skeleton of a "Paleolithic" man near Gainesville, Texas. "The ribs," we are informed, "were about the size of a small pig's; the figure was of gigantic size, and tapered like a serpent." This reads a little like a snake story, but it may be all solemn truth. If so, it would go to account for the squirminess of human nature, and incidentally throws some light on the Paleolithic origin of—say Sir John Macdonald.

THE Citizens' Committee have issued a ringing manifesto on the Jesuit question, and

The war, that for a time did fail,  
Now trebly thunders on the gale,  
And "Stanley" is the cry!

But not only is an appeal to Stanley advised. Energetic action is to be taken to bring the whole question to a legal test, and a great convention is summoned for the 12th of June. All of which must be an eye-opener to the Ottawa "majority." Sir John supposed he had given the movement its *coup de grace* when he coined that clever phrase, "The Devil's Dozen," but the public have decidedly less respect for the Jesuits' Hundred-and eighty-eight.

DOCKING-TIME

THAT all things now tell tales of joy,  
Because 'tis Spring, I know,  
But the frisky lambkin's tail, ere long,  
Will be a tail of woe.