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receives a voter who pledges himself by signature to the whole platform, and openly cuts his connection with his former party. This naturally makes the growth of the organization slower than it otherwise might be, but it assures solidity. Three hundred voters who have "come to stay," and who are held together by a mutual pledge ought to count for more in practical politics than double the number acting under the loose bonds of the old electoral union scheme. Again, the representatives of the old parties, by their action on the Jesuit Estates question, in Parliament have paved the way for a new departure. The New Party's strong declaration of "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none" must prove attractive to all who favor civil and religious liberty, and unless the action of the "recreants" is in due course repudiated by their own parties there will be a considerable stampede into the new fold. The wiping out of the Scott Act will also tell in favor of the New Party. It marks, not the end of Prohibition, but the failure of half-way measures, or Prohibition under the auspices of parties that do not believe in the principle. These and other points which might be referred to are worthy of attention on the part of those who are inclined to laugh at the idea of a new political party. Compared with the Brobdignags of Gritdom and Torydom, Dr. Sutherland may be a Gulliver just now, but he is a growing Gulliver—and one, moreover, who is not to be gulled.

"WAS EVER WOMAN IN SUCH HUMOR WOODED?"—If the Orangemen of Ontario were what they profess to be—simply loyal citizens who have taken under their special guardianship the doctrine of civil and religious equality—the resolutions which they have been passing of late would be somewhat differently worded. Unfortunately it is all too clear that they are (with very few exceptions) the bond slaves of party—the spiritless henchmen of a political leader who has systematically treated them as "chumps." In none of their resolutions on the Jesuit Estates question do we find a solitary word of condemnation for Sir John Macdonald, who is of course the chief offender, and whose offence is aggravated by the fact of his being himself an Orangeman. This would be bad enough if the case were one in which to blame Sir John as he deserves would be to give aid and comfort to the Grits. But such an unspeakable laceration of party feeling is not called for. Both of the leaders at Ottawa are open to condemnation, and both might be arraigned together. But no; Sir John must be spared even if, to save appearances, Laurier is left untouched too. Before the ballot boxes are next called for, we shall in all probability have heard the last of the Orange protests. The storm will have passed over, as it did in the O'Donohue affair, and John A. will be as solid with the lodges as ever he was.

### Comments on the Guffoons.



DESPISE NOT THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS.—The "New Party" is a source of much amusement in Grit and Tory circles, and will no doubt continue to be such for some time to come. Its total membership to date—which is reported at 300—is not calculated to cause much fear and trembling in the old parties, but on the other hand there are some considerations weighty enough to prevent the mirth of the scoffers from becoming too boisterous over the "absurdity of the thing." Firstly, it cannot be denied that the New Party has a good platform. The Grits, at all events, must admit this, as they are fond of boasting that the planks are all taken from them. If this were strictly true it would not minimise

the chances of the New Party's success, providing the public had confidence that the planks were now to be brought into active use. If they are really in the Grit platform, it is simply as ornamental lumber. But, pray, when was Prohibition or Woman Suffrage ever endorsed officially by the Liberals? The old parties stand precisely in the same attitude on these two questions—they are both non-committal; and as to their alleged principles at large, it has long been a standing conundrum as to what they are. The silly and fraudulent N. P., on the one hand, and the more or less mysterious Unrestricted Reciprocity on the other, together with a very plain desire to get and enjoy office common to both—this is a fair summing up of the platforms of the old parties, as at present apprehended throughout the country. Next, it must be noted that in every recruit the New Party



INDLY mention to your neighbors that "no man in Canada need pay one penny of Dominion taxes unless so inclined." The *Hamilton Spectator* says so,—which is almost as good as a certificate to the same effect from the Government. "Most Canadians do contribute to the treasury in the shape of duties on imported goods," goes on the *Spec.*, "but the average man in moderate circumstances \* \* \* could obtain every article of absolute necessity to life and health without paying anything at all." Don't misunderstand this, oh average man. The editor doesn't mean to advise stealing; his simple, easy and obvious plan is for the consumer to buy home-made articles, in which case, of course, he would pay nothing into the Custom House. Notwithstanding the political guile in which the *Spec.* has wallowed for years, it is evidently innocent enough still to believe that the price of a home-made article is never raised by virtue of the duty upon imported goods of the same kind. The "average man" knows full well to the contrary, however, and it makes little difference to him whether he pays the taxes to the Government or to the native manufacturers. The *Spectator* will have to agitate its powerful mind some more on this question.