



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

BY THE

GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

26 and 28 Front Street West, Toronto, Ont.

President
General Manager
Artist and Editor
Manager Publishing Department

J. V. WRIGHT.
T. G. WILSON.
J. W. BENGOUGH.
H. HOUGH.

Terms to Subscribers.

PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

To United States and
Canada.

To Great Britain and
Ireland.

One year, \$2.00; six months - \$1.00 | One year \$2.50

Remittances on account of subscriptions are acknowledged by change in the date of the printed address-label.

In remitting stamps, please send one-cent stamps only.
Messrs. JOHN HADDOX & Co., Advertising Contractors, Fleet St. London, Eng., are the sole agents for GRIP in Great Britain.

Comments on the Cartoons.



WILL HE GET OVER IT?—In his late speech Mr. Laurier outlined with some clearness the policy of his party upon some of the questions now up for settlement, but the greatest question of all was practically left untouched—or at least was not dealt with in the way in which true Liberalism would dictate. That question is the profoundly important one of Canadian nationality—the unification of the Dominion. If we are ever to realize the dream of a powerful nation on the British plan in this greater

half of the American continent, we must first of all lay the foundation upon a true patriotism and enlightened institutions. And in order to do this preliminary work we must in some way clear the ground of the antiquated obstacles which now occupy it in the central Province of Quebec. We must dissolve the union which now exists within our body politic between the sixteenth century and the nineteenth. We must find some way of placing the Roman Catholic Church upon the level of the other Churches—as a spiritual organization entirely unconnected with the State, in which the clergy may have the opportunity of devoting themselves exclusively to the souls of the people, being relieved of the extra duties of collecting taxes and directing elections. To this formidable task the Liberal Party—if it is to deserve the

name—must address itself. It cannot be delayed much longer. Mr. Laurier as the pathfinder of his party finds himself confronted by a five-barred fence, which must in some way be got over. The question is, will he get over it?

THE INFANT HERCULES.—Meanwhile, Mr. Greenway's definite action in Manitoba will serve to keep the great issue we have alluded to before the public mind. The Manitoba Government has calmly formed the determination to abolish the French official language and the R. C. separate schools in that Province. In due time this will be accomplished, and that, too, with the cordial approval of a great many, if not all, intelligent Frenchmen and Catholics up there. This will be the signal for a similar reform in the other Provinces, and, as a necessary preliminary thereto, a revision of the B. N. A. Act which, it is to be hoped, will cut off, once and for all, the roots from which the trouble in Quebec is springing.



BYSTANDER, the reappearance of which was anticipated with much interest, shows in the initial number of the new series that the pen of its distinguished editor has lost none of its former vigor. Thousands will read it for its charms of style, and admire its clear, forcible English, who disagree with many, perhaps with most, of the views it upholds. The *raison d'être* of the enterprise is very aptly set forth in its opening remarks, pointing out that the struggle for existence on the part of the great dailies prevents any cause from gaining a

hearing that does not bring pecuniary support. In such circumstances, the writer truly says, the public may have some use for a small journal not fettered by "commercial exigency or party connections." True enough. But unfortunately the *Bystander's* treatment of Mr Gladstone and the Irish question affords ample evidence that ingrained social prejudice and class feeling may distort the view quite as effectually as partyism or commercial exigencies.

* * *

THE state of journalistic matters so clearly indicated by *Bystander* affords a fine opportunity for the country press to display independence and broaden their field of discussion. The country journalist is always complaining that his big city rival is crushing him out. The issues of the large dailies and their weekly editions, forced upon the market at competition prices, continually trench upon the circulation of the papers printed in the small towns. But the rural editor keeps on taking his cue from the party broadsheet, and serving up its editorials re-hashed. No wonder that his readers prefer to receive them in their original form. If the country journalists want to retain their influence they should do their own thinking, instead of drawing their inspirations from Toronto, and take up many questions of public interest which the big dailies dare not touch. They would find plenty of eager readers.

* * *

A recent issue of GRIP denounced in fitting terms the outrage of naming a village in Western Ontario "Terracottaville." We are asked to call attention to the fact that the residents are not responsible for the barbarism. The name they chose was "Terra Cotta," which is pretty and appropriate, and they were greatly disgusted to find that the uncouth designation above given had been substituted by the authorities. Is it yet too late to make reparation?