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Comments on the Cartoons.



THE GOVERNMENT SHOULDERS THE BOY.—The Government, after due consideration, has decided to “shoulder” the Beatty scandal, though the dose has been too much for a good many of their followers. On the vote to extend the time in order to give Beatty a chance to sell the charter which had been placed in his hands, the majority was only twenty-six—an intimation that virtue has not utterly departed from the House of Commons. The so-called “representatives” who followed the Ministry into this latest quagmire of corruption—among whom, of course, were this city’s precious members—should be forthwith driven from public life, and *would* be in any community whose conscience was not blunted. What a spectacle does Ottawa now present! One Minister of the Crown convicted of aiding and abetting colonization company dick-

erings, and his colleagues—each apparently with an indefinite number of individual scandals to answer for—combining to brazen out one of the most sickening revelations of corruption that has ever been known even in connection with the present Government. If the spaniels of the party press have no protest to make on behalf of the honor of Canada at this time, it is all the more incumbent on the independent papers to speak out, and we hope they will do so to some effect. If it is true that righteousness exalteth a nation, we had better cease putting our whole dependence on the N. P. and go in for a little common decency amongst our rulers.

NOVA SCOTIA SECEDES.—The Premier of Nova Scotia has given formal notice of a motion advising the secession of that Province from Confederation, and there is no doubt that the motion will be carried in the Legislature by an overwhelming majority. The Province went into the Union with extreme reluctance, and during all the years since 1867 the feeling of dissatisfaction has been growing. It is now declared by Premier Fielding that the Federal arrangement has brought Nova Scotia to the verge of ruin, and a repeal of the Union so far as that Province is concerned is essential to a return of anything like its former prosperity. In this connection he charges Sir John Macdonald with serious breaches of faith in having unfulfilled certain promises made to the Province through Hon. Joseph Howe. Mr. Fielding’s proposal is that the scheme for a Maritime Union, set aside in favor of Confederation, should be revived and carried out; or, failing that, Nova Scotia should “go it alone.” In any case the present arrangement is to be superseded.

THE ADAMANTINE EDGAR.—Mr. Edgar has unquestionably succeeded in proving the charges which the House of Commons formally placed before the Committee on Privileges, and now certain prominent members of the Committee demand that he should give up the name of his informant. It is not at all likely that he will do so, as to a poetic mind like Edgar’s there is no reason why he should, and several why he shouldn’t. Indeed, it is hard for anybody without a subtle legal brain like McCarthy’s to see what possible right Parliament has to demand the name—the charges having been established by evidence apart from and independent of the informant, whoever he was. If Edgar continues obdurate the only plan for the ministry will be to adopt the late King Herod’s policy of finding out things. Let them send forth and slay everybody who knows about shady government transactions. This would of course materially diminish the population of the country, but otherwise seems to be unobjectionable.

A FATHERLY WORD.—Mr. Blake read himself a neat little lecture the other day without knowing it. In moving his Home Rule resolution he took occasion to say that there were some points about Gladstone’s bill which he could not approve, but notwithstanding this, he was anxious to have the sympathy and support of Canada conveyed to the Grand Old Man. In this Mr. Blake voiced a widely prevalent state of mind: the feeling that, apart from the details of the measure altogether Gladstone deserves honor and encouragement *because he has been bold enough to announce a definite policy.* If Mr. Blake would follow the English Premier’s example in this as to our local Canadian questions, he would find himself similarly honored and upheld even by people who might not agree with all his views. Edward, lad, just try it! Come out square for Prohibition, for example.

CANADIAN PUBLIC OPINION.—Some of our readers are puzzled to understand how it is that Mr. Goldwin Smith can at any given moment furnish the English press with a succinct expression of Canadian public opinion on any question. And another matter which has called forth remark in this connection is the marvellous similarity which always exists between “Canadian opinion,” as thus expressed, and the opinion which “Bystander” ventilates in the columns of the *Weak*. At the present moment the Canadian public are somewhat surprised to learn that they are strongly opposed to Home Rule for Ireland. A short time ago they were similarly astonished to hear that they are opposed to the abolition of the grog-trade. We accordingly present a little sketch in this number which will make the whole matter clear to anxious enquirers.

McLACHLAN.

THE first of Alexander McLachlan’s special contributions to GRIP appears in this issue, and bears ample testimony that the old poet’s fire and force have not abated. The poem is masterly, and its subject at the present moment most happily chosen. It needs scarcely be said that, writing over his own name, Mr. McLachlan is left perfectly free as to the choice and treatment of his themes, and that the opinions he expresses are his own, and set forth only as such. We give his poem a special place of honor this week to signalize his re-entry into the field of literature. Hereafter, his contributions will appear regularly on our fourth page.



MANAGER SHEPPARD had very bad weather for his benefit on Monday night, and the fact that notwithstanding this a good audience was present is a compliment which may make up for any shortcomings in the box-office receipts. This is how we look at it; O. B. may take a somewhat different view, however.