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Comments on the Cartoons.



UNLICENSED.—The reappearance of *Bystander* has already been noted in these columns. Prof. Smith announces that he has been driven to the re-issue of his review on account of the absence in Canadian journalism of papers through which the free public expression of opinion on all subjects can be had. Personal and party consideration rule the editorial pens all round, it appears. This is, no doubt, meant to be a special slap at the *Mail*, whose desertion of the cause of Unrestricted Reci-

procuity yet remains to be accounted for on public grounds, though it is a bit of general application as well. The Professor will have a demonstration of the spirit of partyism before long, it is safe to promise. The first time *Bystander* treads on Grit or Tory coirns he will find out that the proposed regulations *re* Toronto newsboys, are already in force in the political field, and nobody is permitted to sell opinions on questions of the day who does not do so under the sanction of a party leader. The only exception to this rule is in the case of GRIP—but, of course, GRIP is a privileged character in all respects.

E. A.'S GREAT IDEA.—Alderman E. A. Macdonald has brought forth a scheme for the reorganization of our civic government, and it is so good and reasonable a scheme that the committee, after full discussion, have sent it to the Council with a recommendation that it be acted upon. It has long been clear that Toronto's present system is utterly inadequate, and must, ere long, be radically amended. It is cumbersome, wasteful, and in every way unsuited to the circumstances of the city. Perhaps the redoubtable E. A. has hit upon the very thing we need. He deserves the thanks of the public, at all events, for making an earnest effort in that direction, and we suspect that this acknowledgment could not be made in any more acceptable way than his election by acclamation to the Mayor's chair for 1890.

SAYS Prof. Goldwin Smith in his last issue, speaking of the difficulties in the way of establishing stable government in Spanish America: "It is the fault of the prison house if the limbs of the prisoner when he first comes forth from it are weak and his eyes are unable to bear the light." That is a truly noble and liberal sentiment, worthy of the Professor in his earlier and more radical days. Let him bear it in mind the next time he writes on the Irish question, and feels disposed to dip his pen in gall when condemning the deeds of unfortunates who are not out of the prison house yet.



THE splendid reception accorded by a crowded Toronto audience on Thursday evening of last week to Erastus Wiman, on the occasion of his speech for Continental Free Trade, is the best possible answer to the curs of Protectionist journalism who have been viciously snapping and yelping at his heels after the fashion of their kind. The speech itself was a masterpiece of clear and effective reasoning. It *ought* to have a good effect, but, bearing in mind the adage that "the gods themselves are powerless against stupidity," we dare not predict that it will make many converts.

THE cable informs us that Sir Charles Tupper has returned from a visit to Spain, which, though nominally a holiday run, was taken with a view of sounding Spanish feeling respecting a treaty. The result is that he has no reason to believe there is any favorable change in the attitude of the Ministry. The funny part of the business is that our Government should be so anxious to effect a commercial treaty with Spain—a country with which, under the most favorable conditions, we could have comparatively little trade—while not merely neglecting, but strenuously opposing the very suggestion of free trade with a market of some sixty-five millions of people of our own blood, speaking our own tongue, forming geographically part of the same system, and separated from us only by an artificial frontier.

THE *Globe* appears determined to hound Hon. Mr. Foster from public life. There is abundant opportunity in his public career for fair and legitimate criticism, and GRIP has done his share in calling attention to some of the minister's shortcomings. But this is a very different thing from casting unjust and unmanly slurs