



"Two minds with but a single thought,
Two hearts that beat as one."



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The Railway War.

The *Globe* has lately made a praiseworthy attempt to enlighten the citizens of Toronto on the subject of the Esplanade Railway War—a subject in which they ought to be deeply interested, as it touches them in that tenderest spot—the pocket. Mr. GRIP, knowing that the pencil is mightier than the pen, comes to the assistance of his big brother, and lays the whole matter plainly before the public eye in the above picture. Comment is perhaps unnecessary, but while we have pen in hand we may as well add a few explanatory words. The case, as GRIP understands it, is simply this: The Esplanade (a valuable tract of land on the lake-front of the City of Toronto) is now, and has for many years past been occupied by several railway companies, to wit,—the Grand Trunk, Great Western, Northern, and Toronto Grey and Bruce. A fifth railway, the Credit Valley, has just been completed, and seeks an entrance to the city by this common highway. It meets with the combined, and thus far successful opposition of the rival lines, who have reason to believe that the success of the new line means a speedy reduction in the present rates of freight in Western Ontario. Now, the circumstance which gives this quarrel a special interest for Torontonians is the alleged fact that the railway companies who are opposing the Credit Valley have themselves no title to the Esplanade, which property, in the opinion of eminent counsel, is really Crown land, vested in the City of Toronto, for which the railway companies ought to pay rent. The Credit Valley Company have carried on a vigorous fight, single handed for a long time, against the money and influence of the quadruple monopoly, and the battle is expected shortly to culminate, as Mr. LAIDLAW, the President, has asked Parliament to look into the question of title and decide upon it once and for all. If the legal opinion just indicated be found correct, a handsome amount of money will be poured into our City treasury in the shape of back rent from the various companies, and the Esplanade will henceforth be an important source of civic revenue, which will somewhat mitigate its present character of a nuisance. Considering the state of our finances, this circumstance ought to be sufficient to arouse our citizens to something like a lively interest in the bill which will shortly come before the House at Ottawa.

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Happy is the individual who has received a copy of the *Grip* Almanac from Toronto, Ont. As for ourselves we have done nothing but laugh since first looking into its contents. It is brimming over with good things, nonsensical and otherwise, and one must be sure their vest buttons are sewed on strongly before they commence reading the funny morsels it contains.—*Meriden (Conn.) Recorder.*

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