

CONCERNING ANNEXATION.

FROM the recent writings and speeches of the truly loyal office-holders and monopolists of Canada, GRIP gathers the following facts in regard to the alleged annexation movement:—

That the question of annexation has become the leading political issue.

That the advocates of annexation are a large and influential body, determined to leave no stone unturned to accomplish their fiendish purpose.

That the Grit party, with a few trifling exceptions—including, of course, Sir O. Mowat and Col. Denison—are annexationists.

That the Tory policy is specially calculated to promote annexation.

That the crisis is now upon us, and it behoves every true Canadian to rally in his might, etc., etc.

That as, unfortunately, owing to the mawkish sentimentality of the age, annexationists cannot be hanged to the nearest tree, they should be denounced, vilified and ostracized.

That all this fuss over annexation is not only needless but verges upon actual disloyalty, as it tends to give the movement undue importance.

That the proper way to treat it is with silent contempt.

That there is no annexation movement anyhow.

A PRECOCIOUS CONVERSATIONALIST.

REV. DR. GRONER, of St. Athanasius church, is an enthusiastic temperance worker, and when making pastoral calls seldom fails to introduce the subject, and set forth to his constituents the evils of drinking and smoking.

One day recently he called on the Flummerfelts, who had just taken a pew in his church, and after a few commonplace remarks about the weather and the quarrel among the members of the choir, began to lament the prevalence of intemperance.

"I'm afraid there is great deal of drinking in this neighborhood, Mrs. Flummerfelt," said the doctor.

"Yes," she said, "it's a bad thing, doctor. A man which drinks is seldom a good provider. It's awful the way Mr. Dusenbury across the street neglects his wife and family. And he used to be such a fine-looking man and now he's a perfect wreck."

Mary Jane, the eldest daughter, aged about eleven, who had been listening intently, struck in with—

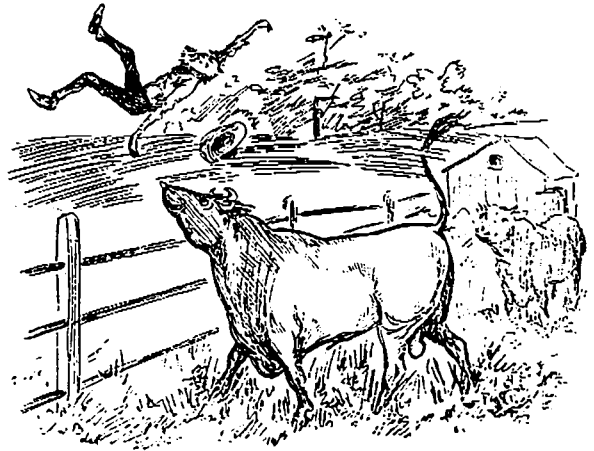
"Yes, alcohol acts injuriously on the corpuscles and the fibrine, making the blood thin and weak. Confirmed drinkers are sensitive to cold and liable to diseases of the lungs, liver, kidney and brain."

The doctor smiled approvingly and said, "Yes, very true."

"In drinking," continued Mary Jane, "the heart becomes wearied on account of the extra work it has to perform."

The doctor patted Mary Jane approvingly on the head. "What a bright, intellectual child this is," he remarked. "I am glad to see that she has formed sound views upon this important question. The drink habit, as I was saying, is fearfully prevalent in our midst, and the insidious vice of smoking is also making fearful inroads upon the community."

"Tobacco," observed Mary Jane, "injures the brain, deranges the entire nervous system, spoils the appetite



HIS ANCESTRY.

"He sprung from good stock."

for wholesome food, lowers the life-forces, injures the lungs and the heart, and depresses the spirits."

"Yes indeed, little one," said the admiring pastor: "it is a terrible evil, and I am sorry to see so many boys learning to smoke."

"When indulged in by young persons," resumed Mary Jane, "it saps the foundations of health."

"You've got altogether too much to say, Mary Jane," interposed Mrs. Flummerfelt.

"Oh, don't interrupt her, I beg of you," said Dr. Groner. "Her conversation is most interesting, and she displays an intelligence far beyond her years."

"Saps the foundation of health," continued Mary Jane, "and dwarfs the body and mind. Tobacco leads to the use of alcohol—the use of tobacco causing nervousness which results in a craving for stimulants. Nicotine is the poisonous element in tobacco."

"Good-bye, Mrs. Flummerfelt," said the doctor, as he rose to go—"I have been charmed and delighted with the instructive conversation of your little daughter, who is evidently a child of brilliant talents and remarkable knowledge for one so young."

Little Tommy, who had been a silent and open-mouthed listener, now approached, and said, "Mister, afore you go, won't you hear my geography lesson?"

"Why, my little man?"

"Well, 'cause you heard sis goin' over her hygiene, and you think she's pretty smart, but I can say my geography and 'rithmetic off just as slick as she done—if you'll wait."

But the doctor didn't seem to take much further interest in the Flummerfelt kids.

A NATURAL CONCLUSION.

PROFESSOR—"What does Prof. Hume mean when he defines induction in the narrower sense of the term as 'empirical generalization?'"

STUDENT—"Why—ah—the kind of generalization you find in the *Empire*."

OBVIOUSLY A CANARD.

There are said to be a good many queer things in Chicago drink-water. —*N. Y. Herald*.

THIS is too absurd. Nobody in Chicago ever drinks water.