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## omments

## Cartoons.

A Shock то his Nerves. - Grip is a believer in free speech in this free land, and is prepared to listen with respect to the honest expression ofopinion on any possible subject. IIe has neither part nor lot with the hoodlums of alleged loyalty who consider a resort to ancient eggs or equally malodorous epithets the proper sort of thing in the case of persons who give utterance to Annexationnist views. The citizen of Canada who believes that political union with the United States would be best for his country is entitied to as courteous treatment as the man who differs with him. The essence of loyalty is the love of onc's land, and the desire which that love inspires to seek the very best destiny for one's people. Some Canadians-not a very large number, however-are convinced that Annexation is desirable because it would secure our highest good in every way. We do not see that the charge of disloyalty necessarily lies against these individuals, because the very same considerations inspire others who are sticklers for the continuance of British connection. Amongst the latter-the very chief of them, in fact-is Sir John A. Macdonald. It has long been Sir John's tacit assumption if not open boast that the party which he leads is, indeed, solid on this point. The Annexationists-otherwise "rebels"-are somehow all in the Grit camp, according to Conservative doctrine. This is what makes it amusing when public men of straight Tory lineage come out as undisguised advocates of Annexation. Some time ago Mr. Sol. White, of Windsor, a well known Conservative member of the Local House, publicly declared himself in favor of union with
the Slates; more recently Mr. Chipman, of Halifax made similar public declarations, and now we have Mr. Van Cortland Wright, of Otawa, whose good standing in the Liberal Conservative party nobody will dispute, declaring that his grandfather was a silly old gentleman to become a United Empire Loyalist, and that Canadh's interests are inseparably bound up with those of the neighboring Kepublic. While conceding to these prominent Conservatives the entire right to the expression of their opinions we can't help smiling, you know.
"King of the Castle."-The question of the leadership of the Irish party is still agitating both hemispheres of this planet, and at this writing it seems most probable that Parncll will come out winner in the dispute. He has certainly succecded in addling to whatever fame he previously enjoyed the reputation of being the champion stayer of the world. The proverbial Irish pig could not have exhibited a greater amount of dogged stublornness than he has clone throughout the whole scrimmage. Henceforth this national quadruped should be the central emblem of his coat-of-arms.

R. GIBSON was called upon to respond to the toast of the Local Legislature at the University Medical School banquet the other evening, and humorously protested on the ground that he was not a member of that body, though he had tried very hard to be. He took refuge in returning thanks for the Legislature "in the abstract," not considering it strictly constitutional to undertake any responsibility for the concrete Assembly which he is supposed to know nothing about. And yet this gentleman who dare not, on pain of some fearful fate, take a seat on the floor of the House, remains at the head of one of the Departments and bosses round a lot of clerks. What have our anti-Yankee friends to say about this unauthorized introduction of the American system into Ontario ? It's too bad about the Colonel, who is a real good fellow. Won't some polite member elect oblige him with a seat?

0N the same occasion Hon. Edward Blake put in an appearance and made a capital speech as Chancellor of the University. He was very heartily received, and everybody was gratified to find him in apparently robust health and fine spirits. Mr. Blake's partial suspension of business in the political department is a loss to the country, which we are sure both parties regret-especially one ot 'em.

THERE is indignation in Montreal because Mayor Grenier signifies his intention of rumning for a third term, in the face of a pledge given some time ago that it was not his intention to be a candidate again. Mr. James McShane is particularly mad about it, and vows that he will take the field himself and "defeat Grenier ignominiously if he dares to come out." Mr. McShane broadly hints that a man whō wants more than two consecuitive terms in the civic chair shows the proclivities of a-porker, and ought to be squelched. All of which will be interesting to our own Edward if it should happen to catch his eye.

WHATEVER Canadians may think of the merits of the Stanley-Bartellott controversy, they may well be of one mind with respect to their gallant young countryman Lt. Stairs, of Halifax, who has just been made the recipient of a handsome and well-deserved compliment in

