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Comments on the Cartoons.



"KEEP AN EYE ON THE PROFESSOR."—With the jaunty air of the professional sleight-of-hand performer, the Premier of Manitoba lately announced his intention of doing away with the separate schools and official French language of the Province. A round of applause greeted the announcement, and an audience extending far beyond the limits of Manitoba is still keeping a keen eye on the professor. It begins to look as though the trick would be more difficult of performance than was at first anticipated, so far at least as the schools are concerned. The cry has been raised that the abolition of separate schools necessarily involves the secularization of the public school, and this is a prospect which affrights an influential section of religionists, headed by Rev. Principal King and the Anglican Bishop of Rupert's Land. These worthy people feel that it would be unseemly for a Christian country not to acknowledge God in its public schools, and they are right. But such acknowledgment can surely be made in a manner agreeable to Catholics and Protestants alike by the recitation of an opening prayer in which Jehovah would be addressed as the God of the nation, the exercise involving

nothing in the direction of personal religious instruction, but at the same time avoiding the charge of godlessness which might be made against the schools. Candidly speaking, the religious exercises at present conducted in the public schools are the merest matter of form, and it will be a pity if, for the sake of this formality, Manitoba must perpetuate a positive evil in the shape of separate schools. It is becoming manifest, however, that unless some happy compromise can be agreed upon, Professor Greenway will have to retire with what grace he can muster, leaving his promised "trick" unperformed.

THE ESTIMATION IN WHICH HE IS HELD.—If the officers and men of the N.W. Mounted Police were at liberty to express their feelings in outward action, they would, with hearty unanimity, hasten to toss Commissioner Herchmer in a blanket, and the blanket would be marked as indicated in our cartoon. With very few, if any, exceptions, the members of the force regard their politically appointed head with feelings varying from contempt to hatred. This is the natural consequence of his own conduct, which has uniformly been that of a blustering, unreasonable martinet, a jack-in-office whose master passion is to display the autocratic power with which he is unfortunately clothed, without the instincts of a soldier or the feelings of a gentleman. So outrageous has his rule been, that even thick-and-thin organs of the Government, like the Regina Leader, have been forced to lift their voices in protest against his retention in command, and in so protesting these journals voice the sentiments of the people of the Territories. Unless the Government wish to see the mounted police force disorganized and ruined, Herchmer must go. That his father happened to be a friend of Sir John Macdonald and of Sir Richard Cartwright may be reason enough to account for the friendly attitude of those gentlemen toward him, but surely it is carrying friendliness too far when it leads them to retain their protégé in a position where he is doing nothing but mischief.

THE contest between the American cities for the World's Fair of 1892, seems practically to have narrowed down to a struggle between New York and Chicago. It is stated that the sympathies of most Canadians are with the metropolis of the West, and it is natural that they should be. Apart from the facts that it is nearer our frontier and has a larger Canadian element among its people than any other city, its claim as an inland city ought to weigh much with all unbiassed minds. There is little that is typically American about New York, and if the fair were held there, thousands might come and go and see very little of the characteristics of the country. If, on the other hand, Chicago is selected, the most unobservant of travellers cannot fail to gain valuable impressions of inland America. GRIP unhesitatingly declares for Chicago.

LOOK out for a rumor of war between Germany and Austria pretty shortly. The Emperors William and Francis Joseph have been kissing and hugging each other according to the peculiar custom prevailing among the crowned heads of Europe. Such proceedings nearly always indicate that one or other of the demonstrative rulers means mischief, and fancies that he is pulling the wool over the eyes of the other fellow in great shape.

IT is rather a new thing to hear of a nobleman sending in his resignation, divesting himself of his caste prerogative, and becoming an ordinary member of society, but it has actually happened. The Archduke John of Austria has become tired of being an archduke, and has voluntarily gone out of the business. He is going into a ship-building yard in London as plain Johann Orth. This proceeding will no doubt strike many an American millionaire as a shameful waste of a valuable commercial commodity. Titles are quoted high just at present, owing to the American demand, and many a wealthy distiller or pork-packer would willingly pay a cool million