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J. W. BENGOUGH.
PHILLIPS THOMPSON.



Comments ON THE Cartoons.

TROOLY LOIL.—A Toronto lawyer, who passes as fairly up to the average of the profession for intelligence, walked up to one of the visitors at Chautauqua as the Wiman meeting was about to begin and said: "I am surprised

to see you here, ready to listen to men who want to annex our country to the United States!" Saying which he took himself off, safely beyond the reach of the arguments for free trade relations with our neighbors. Where did this gentleman get the impression that to discuss Reciprocity is to advocate Annexation? From the journals and leaders of the Tory party, to which he professes to belong. Now, if it is possible to thus influence an intelligent, educated man, who enjoys the advantage of living in a large city where there is free access to the papers of all the parties, why should anybody wonder at the effect the same lying propaganda has had upon the people of our rural districts. We have called this gentleman intelligent, and we would like also to give him credit for sincerity, but he is certainly a slave to party prejudice, or he would sit down reasonably and listen to the

arguments. If he did so, his intelligence would have a chance to assert itself, and he would cease to speak of free trade and disloyalty as necessarily synonymous terms. The editor of the *Empire* hasn't even the poor excuse of the partisan we have referred to, for on the occasion in question he, at least, gave the Reciprocity advocates a fair hearing. He sat there while both Longley and Wiman declared in most emphatic terms their opposition to the political union of Canada and the United States, and he heard their arguments from the standpoint of patriotism, for a policy which would develop the resources of this country and vastly increase the prosperity of our entire population, by giving our farmers a profitable market for their products. Yet the paper which this decent gentleman represents continues to shout "traitor," "rebel," etc., at the heels of all who are inclined to give heed to the facts and figures thus set forth. Of course we know the *Empire* is not itself a responsible being—the crank is turned at Ottawa. It shakes the Old Flag in the farmer's face and howls about the awful disloyalty of selling his hogs to the Yankees, because such are its instructions from the Chieftain—the same Chieftain who declared that the highest purpose of the N.P. was to secure, if possible, Reciprocity of Trade with the neighboring Republic. Now, why should Sir John be willing thus to do despite to his own intelligence? Because he wants election funds to keep in office from the fellows whom the tariff licenses to pick the pockets of the general public, and these fellows very naturally are opposed to Reciprocity. This is statesmanship, you know.

THE LOITERING LIBERALS.—Attorney-General Longley, of Nova Scotia, seems to have made a very favorable impression in this vicinity, both as an orator and a man of practical ideas. In his speech at the Reform Club he metaphorically tapped his leaders on the head and ordered them to "move on!" He thinks these able gentlemen ought to be astir educating the country up to their ideas long before the bills are out for the general election, and that the rank and file ought to be vigorously at work organizing the constituencies and polishing up the weapons. These sentiments commend themselves to us as eminently sound. That is why we have from time to time given them utterance in these columns. Attorney-General Longley is evidently a reader of this leading journal.



GAIN the Human Boy is back at school, and the neighbors are sorry to the point of weeping—almost. It is hard for them to endure the strange stillness that has succeeded the perpetual tornado and cyclone of the holidays, but they philosophically consider that boys *must* go to school to some extent, if we are to have a nation of intelligent citizens in the future. And so they are reconciled, especially when they reflect that *tempus* goes on *fugit*, and it is "after school" every day almost before you know it.

AND what are the schools doing for the boys? Much, undoubtedly. The average pupil of sixteen, who is anything short of a positive dunce, has a far greater store of learning to-day than his compeer of a few years ago had at the same age. It is open to question, however, whether this "learning" is of the most valuable kind in the majority of cases. Our Public school curriculum proceeds too much on the assumption that all the boys are preparing for professional life. This is especially true of the High school programme, which is merely the preliminary work of the University. Since, as a matter of fact, few pupils ever go beyond the High school, the curriculum calls for revision to adapt it to the wants of the majority. The studies ought to be of a more practical kind, such as will fit the boys to become what most of them are destined to be—just plain business men.