



THE "OPENING" OF THE ART EXHIBITION.

by the Church on the score of missionary ownership. Very properly it was duly recognized, and a Bill liquidating the claim at \$1,000,000, was almost unanimously passed by the Manitoba Legislature. To this Bill the Royal assent was given, in conformity with the principles of recognition of Provincial Rights. At the same time, it might be added incidentally, the Baptist Church, which at one time held baptisms on a creek flowing through the property, were allowed \$100,000 indemnity for the abolition of this water privilege. Can any fair-minded, non-bigoted man say there was anything unreasonable in this procedure, in view of the true facts as here set forth?

"THE COLORED PEOPLE'S CONSOLATION ACT."—As our readers all know, for very many years the colored people of this Province held almost exclusive control of the whitewashing work, the barbering business, and the hotel-waiter profession. With the march of time, gradually but surely came changes, until now, what do we find? The whites have invaded the realms of ceiling decoration, and under such high-sounding names as kal-somining, virgining, milkatining, alabasterining, and so forth and so on—words which would fairly paralyze our worthy colored brethren in attempting to remember and pronounce with correct accent—have fairly driven them out of the whitewashing field. Again, we scarcely ever see a colored barber—the whites have usurped supremacy in the tonsorial art, and left the original professors of that noble vocation nothing to do but haunt corner groceries and the wharves, using their razors as stick-whittlers and tobacco-knives. Once more, we see that all the hotels have discarded the colored gentlemen for the white person in their *salles-a-manger*, and thus cast

many hundreds of courtly and deserving dining-room attendants out on the cold world. Is it any wonder, then, that a Bill was introduced in the Ontario Legislature providing for graduated pensions to these citizens and electors, forming so large a portion of our esteemed and voting population, in compensation for their losses? The Bill was worthy of this fair Province, and well within its *vires*. Sanctioned as it has been at Ottawa, can any man with reason and a heart declare that the paltry \$500,000 expenditure embraced by it makes the Colored People's Consolation Act a wrong, unfair or regrettable piece of legislation?

Objection, we understand, has been urged in some quarters as to the arbiters provided for in these Acts. It is hinted, in the case of the first-mentioned, that Rev. Dr. Potts ought not to be given too exclusive control of this money, for fear he may, in conjunction with Col. Denison and Brother Hughes, devote it to purposes of war instead of the Church; and, in the second case, that if the editor of the Hamilton *British Lion* have the disposition of the pensions, he may possibly raise the price of subscription to all beneficiaries, who will, of course, scarcely be in a position to resist the pressure.

These are but side issues, however, and may safely be left to work themselves out aright.

What we are satisfied with is that the majesty of Provincial Rights is still being grandly sustained by the Federal Government. Look at the precedent set in regard to Quebec, five short years ago, and say, are we not progressing?

A PLEA FOR THE PUNSTER.

IN justice to the punster's cause,
This truth must be admitted,
Compared to him, in spite of saws,
The sage is but half-witted.

Then visit not on such a pate
Thy critic's scorn o'erweening.
His words should carry double weight,
For they have double meaning.



ADVANCE CRITICISM.

SCRIBBLETON (*rising author*)—"I've just been weighed, and do you know I've gained ten pounds within the last month?"

BLUNTON—"Nonsense; you must have had something in your pocket."

SCRIBBLETON—"Not a thing, I assure you, excepting this manuscript of my new comedy."

BLUNTON—"Ah; that accounts for it."