



TORONTO, SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1892.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

HUMOR COMPETITION.

\$60 in Cash Prizes to be Given.

With a view to encouraging the humorous pens of the Dominion (and there are many of them as yet unknown to Fame), GRIP has decided to offer the following Prizes:

For the best short humorous article, a prize of \$30 cash will be given. For the next best, a prize of \$20 cash, and for the third in order of merit, a prize of \$10 cash.

The conditions of the competition are:

- 1st. No article to contain more than 750 or less than 300 words.
- 2nd. None but original articles will be entered in the competition. Articles may be in the form of prose or verse, stories, character sketches, satirical skits, or in any other literary form whatever.
- 3rd. Articles will be judged not so much for literary merit as for the merit of the humorous idea involved.
- 4th. All articles submitted to be marked "competition," and to be the property of the Grip Printing and Publishing Company.
- 5th. Mr. J. W. Bengough, Mr. Phillips Thompson and Mr. J. V. Wright will act as judges in the competition.
- 6th. It is not necessary for any competitor to subscribe for GRIP, nor to send money for any purpose whatever.
- 7th. The authors of all articles which are, on a preliminary examination, considered meritorious enough to be placed in competition, will receive a copy of GRIP gratis for four weeks from receipt of article.
- 8th. All articles to be sent in by March 1, 1892, when the competition will be closed.
- 9th. There is no limit to the number of articles that may be sent in by any competitor.

The result of the competition and the successful articles will be published in GRIP as soon afterwards as possible. The best of the non-successful ones will also appear.

COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



DOGGED OPPOSITION. — Premier Abbott has at last got through with his big cabinet reconstruction job, and the result somehow has not been greeted with "loud and long-continued cheers" by the Conservative party. The promise of increased strength in the Ontario representation has been redeemed by the selection of Mr. Patterson, of Essex, and—that is all. Mr. Patterson's strength lies chiefly in his respectability, and from this point of view his entrance certainly improves the ministry. No place has been found for Mr. W. R. Meredith, much to the disgust of that gentleman's many admirers. There is no question that had the Premier followed merely the dictates of his own judgment, he would have offered Mr. Meredith a portfolio but he was obliged to listen to other dictates, and the dictators, who represented the French Catholic Church, spoke with decisive emphasis. Mr. Meredith was told by the French press that he could by no means join the Government until he had publicly recanted the deadly heresy he holds—that the Dominion would be

much better off without separate schools and two official languages. The terms were, of course, impossible, and Mr. Abbott had no power to get them modified. The general inference from these facts would appear to be that, after all, Canada is not ruled by a responsible Government, but by an irresponsible Church.

WITH A STRING TO HIM.—Two of the members of the Dominion Government are without seats in the House of Commons, and there is a probability that the new minister, Mr. Patterson, will, in the meantime at least, have to reach his department *via* the Senate. This may be in accordance with the constitution, but it is a highly objectionable arrangement. It may serve some useful end to have one Governmental head a Senator, but one is quite as many as we care for. The Senate is utterly unpopular. It is regarded as a fussy old nuisance, neither useful nor amusing, and membership in it adds nothing to the dignity of a minister. But this thing of giving seats in the Senate to members of the Cabinet is getting to be a mere evasion of the spirit of our institutions—a device for keeping in office men who cannot get elected in the regular way. When Hon. John Carling was defeated in London he should have given up his portfolio until he had found another constituency. But he was gently hoisted into the Senate, and his salary went on without a break. Now he has determined, it appears, to contest London again, Mr. Hyman having been unseated. To that end he will go through the farce of resigning his Senatorship, it having been arranged that if he is again defeated (as seems highly probable) he will be replaced safely in the red chamber. This will not be the first case of the kind, if it happens. Moral—let the Senate be abolished as soon as possible.



PERHAPS our esteemed contemporary, the *Empire*, will permit us a word of explanation on the extract which it quoted from these columns *apropos* of last week's cartoon. It being the province of GRIP to reflect the current state of things politically, we gave due prominence to the matter referred to—the difficulty of finding a means whereby we can secure unrestricted reciprocity with the States and at the same time retain sole control of our seaboard tariff. This is a puzzle to the Liberal party, and a point upon which the leaders of that party have never spoken clearly. Hence it properly found expression in these pages.

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BUT what we want our esteemed contemporary to know is that the problem gives GRIP no personal trouble at all. We never were sanguine enough to believe that the Americans would give us absolute free trade, and consent to our back door being left ajar. Yet we are convinced that free trade with the States is a thing we must have, and that before long. This being so, we are willing to make fair concessions to secure it. We see no particular objection to an assimilation of tariffs, which appears to be the only solution. It would in the meantime make our tariff higher on the whole than it now is, but the tendency in the States is in the direction of tariff reform, and a tariff lower than our present one is a possibility of the near future. If we are obliged