



A STERN CHASE.

EXHAUSTED CONSTABLE—“I’ll give—any one—penny (*per*)—to blow me whistle!”—*Pick-Me-Up*.

it was inspired by any partizan feeling. Why then should GRIP be charged with Gritism because, in common with *Punch*, and all other independent onlookers (notably, the ministers of all denominations) we denounce the wrongdoers. That they happen to be Tories, at Ottawa, is not our fault. They happen to be Grits at Quebec, and we have gone as far as facts yet known will warrant in condemning them. Should the finding of the Royal Commission implicate the Quebec Government in the guilt of Pacaud’s transactions we will deal as severely with the culprits as we know how.

WE protest against the cry of “Gritism” for another reason. It is doing too much honor to the Grit party. It is only when GRIP has pilloried some species of rascality, or uttered sentiments which ought to command the approval of all people of common decency, that he is howled at as a “Grit.” This is practically crediting the Liberals with a monopoly of all that is right, which is going a trifle too far. We simply wish here to give notice that we propose to go right on telling the truth and exposing wrong principles and questionable acts without regard to the howlings of the politicians on either side. They make the facts. If they don’t like to be pilloried, let them take care to make no facts but such as are creditable to them.

THEY say that Lt.-Gov. Angers was quite right in taking up the Pacaud case and appointing a Royal Com-

mission to make a thorough investigation of it without waiting for the advice of his ministers, some of whom are supposed to be implicated in the wrong-doing. This is held to be sound doctrine by the Conservatives at Ottawa. Well, then, why has the Gov.-General been so remiss in his duty? Why did he not take up the Tarte charges and put them into the hands of an impartial tribunal? We would be pleased to hear from that eminent constitutional lawyer, Sir John Thompson, on this point. He might at the same time state what has become of the other sound doctrine laid down in the Letellier case—that a Lt.-Governor is a mere figure-head, and has no right to do anything except take the advice of his ministers.

IS all this whitewashing worth the trouble? Who is it supposed to deceive? The process seems to go on the assumption that the people are fools. Can a vote of partizans, however great the majority, alter facts? What the party managers require to do is to whitewash the evidence.

A PARAGRAPH in this column the other week stated that the Registrar of Waterloo county had been charged with “crookedness.” In this we were misinformed. The charge was the milder one of negligence, he having assumed the correctness of certain work done by a deputy, which work turned out to be so incorrect as to let the county in for a loss of some \$6,000. This sum the Registrar made good.

GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS.

NO Government that has ever controlled the affairs of an English-speaking commonwealth has passed through the fires of eager hostile criticism so free from reproach and scandal, and no Government ever served a community more ably, honestly, and unselfishly, than that which has ruled Ontario ever since the defeat of the Sandfield Macdonald Administration.

Referring to the above certificate of character from the *Globe*, a querulous correspondent asks the following pertinent (or perhaps impertinent) questions:

Is it a government of all the talents and of all the virtues, too?

Can a merely able, honest, and unselfish government exist in these degenerate days?

What other arts prevail in politics?

Of the noble band who rally round the *reform* banner to-day, I would like to ask, what reward have ye in prospect?

Of the noble band who held the fort in other days, I would ask, are you paid by fees or by salary?

When you come down to a fine thing, what is the difference between what is called corruption at Ottawa and this buying and paying for support by appointments to offices?

After all, GRIP is of opinion that a full return for the last eighteen years of all those who have not served Mowat for naught would be interesting reading.

THE POETRY OF MILLINERY.

PLUGWINCH (*reading from Hamilton Herald*)—“Just listen to this now—‘Some of the new hats and bonnets are perfect poems, of which every flower is a line and every feather a stanza.’”

MRS PLUGWINCH—“How true and beautiful! I wonder what metre they are in.”

PLUGWINCH (*with a groan*)—“Gas-metre Mrs. Plugwinch.”