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Comments on the Cartoon.



OUT OF THE DELICATE SITUATION.—In our issue of March 24th, we had a cartoon representing "Sir John's delicate position" between the pistols of the Manitoba Government and the C.P.R. Syndicate, and in our note upon it we said: "Both parties certainly cannot be accommodated, and it is difficult to see which of 'em the Government can best afford to offend." This should have been so qualified as to make it clear that the difficulty presented was one which was staggering to the ordinary mind. Sir John's is not ordinary, by a considerable deal—which we somehow forgot. He solved the alleged difficulty without any trouble, and what is more, he didn't find it necessary to offend either of them. Marvellous are the resources of heaven-born

statesmanship! But how in the name of all that is Machiavellian did Sir John do it? Well, he—we can hardly go on, we are so overpowered by the brilliancy and originality of the idea—he simply gave both parties all they demanded.

CHRISTIAN STATESMANSHIP.—The accounts recently published of the interviews with the Indians in the vicinity of Edmonton bring up once again the question of the treatment which these unhappy creatures are receiving at the hands of our alleged Christian Government. The record is one at which we may well blush, as a people, but just how far our blushes will go to prevent Indians who have nothing to eat from starving is something worthy of consideration. It appears that our rascally officials, from the top to the bottom, either neglect their duties, which they are paid to perform, or deliberately swindle the poor Indians out of the supplies of food and raiment which the country provides. Under all the circumstances the moderation and forbearance of the suffering redmen are remarkable. On many a

reservation they have seen their women and children die of cold and starvation, and no deed of vengeance has in a single case followed. Where are the white men who would exhibit such patience? And why is it that they are called upon to endure such tortures? Where it is not "cold and callous neglect" it is something worse—infernal greed. Dewdney's contractors must be kept fat and sleek, and the Government is more concerned in filling their pockets with boodle than in performing the offices which one would think the instincts of common humanity would render it a pleasure to perform. It is the people of this Dominion who are guilty of these cruel murders, however. Our officials are our servants, not our masters.

SOME of the Government orators and organs can feelingly appropriate Hosea Biglow's immortal lines:—

"A merciful Providence fashioned us holler
 A purpose that we might our principles swaller."

The tremendous gulp with which they have been obliged to stomach all the nonsense they have been spouting *a propos* of the American free-list, ought to make them feel particularly thankful that their "patent insides" are capacious and elastic.

THE reputation of the country is saved in a sort of a way—our Government has backed out of a position that was untenable as well as disgraceful. We feel too thankful to care about enquiring very minutely into the causes which led to a square reversion of the policy announced by Sir John only a few days ago—though the mention of Lord Salisbury's name in the dispatches suggests that it was he who played the part of Davy Crockett to the Government's coon. It's a good thing to be under Downing street rule after all, in a case of this kind.

A SKIPPER "of trustworthy character" saw the sea serpent at the mouth of the Connecticut river last Friday. He says the monster was over 100 feet in length. It made no remark, beyond merely suggesting "So long" as it moved away rapidly.

IT is announced that the Hon. Mr. McShane's place in the Mercier Cabinet will be taken by Mr. Owen Murphy, of Quebec west. He ought to be competent for the duties, however owenerous.

WE have always been given to understand that there was no hope of the present Government adopting the principle of Prohibition. This slander is set at rest by the introduction of Mr. Abbot's Bill for the absolute extinction of bucket shops. This excellent measure is based on the following *Whereas*: Gaming and wagering on the rise and fall in value of stocks and merchandise are detrimental to commercial and public morality, . . . and it is expedient to prevent such gaming and wagering, to punish the persons engaged therein, and to prohibit and punish the opening and maintaining of places therefor, and the frequenting thereof." The Bill will unquestionably become law. Good on the Government's head!

NOW what's the matter with making another little Bill, since you have begun on the prohibition line, gentlemen, with the same peramble slightly amended, by the substitution of the words "selling and drinking intoxicating liquors" for "gaming and wagering on stocks"? Why not? Aren't decanter-shops ten times more "detrimental to commercial and public morality" than bucket-shops? Ah, of course; the bucket-shop vote isn't an