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SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE next issue of GRIP will be the Christmas Number, and will be the best number of GRIP ever issued. Four pages of cartoons are being handsomely lithographed in six colors, while other special features are being provided, making this a capital number to buy for one's self, or to send abroad as a representative Canadian publication. The price will be 10 cents a copy to non-subscribers. For sale at all newsdealers, or direct from this office. Subscribers will, of course, receive this Christmas Number without extra charge.

Grip's Comic Almanac for 1888 has met with an instantaneous and pronounced success. The large edition is already nearly exhausted, and orders are pouring in for it with every mail from dealers and the public. Price 10 cents. Of all newsdealers, or direct from GRIP Office, Toronto, Ontario.

Comments on the Cartoons.



GREAT NATIONAL DISASTER. — Hon. Frank Smith has left the Government, because his wishes as to the appointment of a new judge have been disregarded. At last accounts the Cabinet still existed, though terribly shaken by the disaster. When we come to consider that the hon. gentleman, as President of the Council, has for several years borne the whole responsibility of drawing the salary of \$6,000, it will be understood how severe a shock his sudden withdrawal must be. Very fortunately for the country, this was the only duty pertaining to the position, and when the first fright has passed away there is reason to hope that the Dominion will recover.

THE NEW LAOCOON. — Mayor Howland made a revelation at the Council meeting last week which has made a considerable sensation in civic circles. In connection with the discussion on the hose con-

tracts now before the Council, the mayor read letters to prove that on a former occasion the contractor, Thomas McLroy, jr., had made money payments to Alderman Piper and ex-Alderman Farley. It is alleged that this money was paid for their influence in securing the hose-contract. Alderman Piper denies this, asserting that he received the money as expenses in connection with a visit to Ottawa to secure changes in the tariff in McLroy's interest. Mr. Farley has not, up to this writing, made a public statement on the charges. A thorough investigation is to be made.

THE INCOME TAX QUESTION. — Rev. D. J. Macdonnell flatly asserts that the Roman Catholic clergy of this city are exempted from all taxation on incomes, simply because they are Catholics. He scouts the idea that Archbishop Lynch does not receive more than \$1,000 per year, and declares that unless even handed justice is dealt out as between the sects, he will refuse next year to pay his taxes, and will advise all his Protestant clerical friends to do the same.



IRISH AFFAIRS

(AS UNDERSTOOD BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT READ THE PAPERS).

SOUND REASONING.

"WELL, Ned, how do you think the women vote will go?" anxiously enquired one of Mr. Clarke's active workers.

"I'm feeling hopeful about it," replied the handsome candidate, briskly. "I think I'm solid with the ladies. My wife told me this morning that she would vote for me every time against anybody. Now if they all feel that way I think I'll be all right!"

CHRISTMASSY.

THE Christmas number of the *Illustrated London News* is as usual an ample and elegant issue. It contains a new story by Bret Harte, richly illustrated by R. Caton Woodville, besides other reasonable contents. No fewer than four fine colored plates are given with the number.

GRIP's Christmas number will be the regular issue of the week of December 24th, and we can confidently promise that it will excel any extra edition we have ever sent out. Four pages will be printed in colors, including a very amusing cartoon, entitled "The Fancy Dress Christmas Party." The other literary and artistic contents will be adapted to the holiday season, and finally, the price will be 10 cents.

LOOKING AHEAD.

"PROFESSOR WIGGINS," says a newspaper paragraph, "has returned to the prophetic business. He is of opinion that there will not be a recurrence in North America of the disastrous earthquakes of the Southern States and Central America before the year 1900." If this prophecy happens to be verified, we can just imagine how Prof. Wiggins will enjoy the novel sensation, and how he will go swelling around Ottawa all through the year 1900 saying, "What did I say? Didn't I tell you so?"