

THE patriotic papers of this Province, as in duty bound, are pointing with pride to the speed and certainty with which justice is meted out to murderers by our Canadian courts. The self-paid compliment is deserved. Given a murder, an arrest, and a chain of evidence leaving no reasonable doubt of guilt, and our judges and juries certainly get in their work with neatness and despatch. But it humbles our pride a little to contemplate the formidable list of cases in which we have nothing to show but the murder. Where, for example, is the "party or parties unknown" who butchered the old lady at the Humber a few years ago? Where is the murderer of Mrs. Spears in St. John's Ward? Where the rayer of Mr. Morse? And where a great many other red-handed wretches who are as yet unwhipt of justice?

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IT is no joke to play a church organ when you don't understand the stops, and we should suppose the experience is much the same in the matter of a Party organ. Take the *Empire*, for example, and consider the feelings of the editor, when he reads in his own columns, almost alongside of his severe comments on the extravagance of the Mowat Government timber policy, the following dispatch from Port Arthur, which has somehow slipped in:

"A number of Rat Portage and Port Arthur lumbermen, who have been attending the big pine sale in Toronto, have arrived back. The prices which the Government realized for the timber berths in Port Arthur district are considered excessive."



UNNNY thing, isn't it, that the Government of the Province of Ontario, which does not itself possess the constitutional power of prohibiting the liquor traffic, can still confer that power upon the municipalities, as it has done in the Act just passed? Nobody seems to question the validity of the new Act, however, and meanwhile prohibitionists ought to go ahead with thankful hearts. Nothing is more certain than Provincial

Prohibition, if each municipality will in turn follow the example of Lanark township and squelch the drink traffic. The law will also have a better chance of fair enforcement when it is deliberately adopted by small communities, each acting for itself. Mr. Mowat has certainly squared accounts with the temperance men in giving them this Act.

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 1st.—The Secretary of the Navy yesterday decided to let the Cramps build two of the battle ships and the triple screw cruiser, the former at \$3,020,000 each and the latter at \$2,725,000. The Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, will construct the other battle ship, according to the Cramp plan.

IF a well-disposed neighbor may be permitted to comment on this in a friendly way, we would indicate to Uncle Sam that he is making a world-renowned ass of himself with his "new navy." If the rascally politicians at Washington *must* squander the money they wring from the people through a robber-tariff, they ought at least to be able to find some harmless way of doing it. In building war-ships - which will be of no use for fighting purposes when finished—the American Republic is countenancing the barbarous example of the "effete monarchies" of the Old World, and altogether going back upon the lofty ideal set up by the fathers of the nation. Against whom does Uncle Sam suppose he is preparing to defend his country? The Canadians? He

need give himself no alarm on that score. Canada is the only power on this continent which is able to whip him—*Vide* History of 1812, etc.—and assurances of pacific intentions in this quarter ought to put him at his ease.

GRIP'S ALMANAC FOR '91.



THE forthcoming (it is in reality the twelfth coming) issue of this popular annual will appear about Nov. 1st. It will consist of thirty-two pages and an illustrated cover, and will be packed full of good things, the offspring of pen and pencil. The calendar pages will be new in design, each being surmounted by an amusing sketch introducing twenty well-known politicians of Canada. This same comical score will appear in seven different scenes. The table of remarkable events will fix the dates of some very remarkable events indeed. Mr. Phillips Thompson will contribute some capital things in prose and verse, and the double-page cartoon by Mr. Bengough, a burlesque of Meissonier's celebrated painting of "Napoleon in the Height of his Glory," will be alone worth more than the price of the *Almanac*, which will remain at the old established figure of 10 cents. Our readers who wish to obtain copies are advised to remit order accompanied by the price as early as possible.

SAM HAYSEED, who is in attending the University, puts his watch under his spring mattress every night, because he says he has always been used to sleeping on a tick.



A DEMURRER.

JUDGE SNUFFY—"Erasmus Lightfoot, you are charged with chicken stealing. Have you a lawyer?"  
 ERASMUS—"No, sah."  
 JUDGE SNUFFY—"Do you wish the court to assign you a lawyer?"  
 ERASMUS—"No, sah; no sah!"  
 JUDGE SNUFFY—"What do you wish to do about it?"  
 ERASMUS—"Well, Jedge, if it's all de same to you, I'd jess as leave dismiss de case."