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and it was, so far as we know, satisfactory to everybody. Why it was ever changed (when the change, according to Mr. Mowat, was not an alteration) is one of the political mysteries into which it is useless to enquire. This might have been done long ago, and the expense of the reference to the Court saved, but for some reason (also a profound mystery) the Government have persisted in keeping up an unnecessary muddle. We begin to suspect, with the *Mail*, that the hierarchy has something to do with it.

EDDIE TAKES THE PUDDING.—Mrs. Toronto, like the indulgent ma she is, gave in to the clamors of her fair-haired boy, Eddie Clarke, and let him have a third helping of the Mayoralty pudding. The peculiarity of this pudding is that it cannot be divided round, and as a consequence Johnnie McMillan had to go without, which is much to be regretted, as he has been a good boy and done excellent service for years. Aside from this consideration, GRIP has no fault to find with the decision. He hopes Master Ed. may thoroughly enjoy the pudding, and not suffer, in the slightest degree, from civic dyspepsia when he has finished it; and when Mrs. Toronto makes another for next year may she take Johnnie's measure for it.

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Comments on the Cartoons.



A HEAVY LEGAL FOG.—The reference to the Divisional Court of Chancery of the questions concerning the Ontario School law, has resulted in making the matter as clear as mud to the comprehension of the average layman. The "Answers" themselves have now been referred to the Superior Court of the Public Press, and the presiding justices are at sixes and sevens over them—some contending that they sustain the contention of the Government as to the meaning of the Amendments to the

law, and others as positively declaring that they entirely upset the case of the Cabinet. Before he can tell the Catholic ratepayer just where he stands now, Mr. Mowat will have to take the whole subject into his consideration *de novo*. We took the liberty of remarking at the time of the reference that that proceeding was farcical, but we hardly supposed it would turn out to be quite so much of a farce. Seeing that the best efforts of the judges have not made the point any plainer than it was before, there remains one last resource for the Government, and that is to rescind the Amendment and re-enact the law as it originally stood. There was no possibility of misunderstanding that law,



IN the *Globe* on Tuesday, 7th, there appeared a "Startling Disclosure" to the effect that Mr. Ed. Farrer, the editor of the *Mail*, was at Washington, using his influence to prevent the Hitt resolution and the Butterworth Bill from being favorably reported to Congress—and thus endeavoring to prevent any offer of Reciprocity from taking official shape.

To this end, the information said, Mr. Farrer was supplying the Hoar committee with evidence that if Reciprocity is held off, the people of Canada will shortly be in a humor for Annexation—a consummation, Senator Hoar thinks, devoutly to be wished.

WE opened our *Mail* on Wednesday with unusual interest, and looked confidently for an adequate reply to what we thought a libel. We were sadly disappointed. The *Mail* considers it a sufficient answer to this serious charge to state that Mr. Farrer is visiting the United States by his doctor's orders, and that nobody outside of a lunatic asylum will credit the story published in the *Globe*. This is so very weak that it goes a long way to prove the story well founded, and to substantiate the *Globe's* oft-reiterated belief, that the *Mail* is really playing a part in the interest of the Ottawa Government. Is Mr. Farrer too ill to hold conferences with Senator Hoar? Has he ever held any? Let the *Mail* answer these questions squarely.

IT would also be a satisfaction to those who are anxious to retain their faith in the honesty of the *Mail* to hear some reasonable explanation of its sudden face-about on the subject of Continental Free Trade. A series of able articles pointing out the advantages of Reciprocity with the United States was abruptly stopped, with the lame apology that, as the American Government were unwilling to consider the matter (an altogether gratuitous assumption), there was no use in keeping at it. This sounded "thin" at the time. In the face of the *Globe's* "startling disclosure," it now has a decidedly sinister look.

A FRIEND sends us a suggestion for a joke on the Q.C. Question, but as the rival Governments have managed to make the degree itself an enormous jest, we have ruled it out of available subjects. Nothing we