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**SPECIAL NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.**

AN error in the numbering of GRIP occurred toward the end of Vol. XXIX. and continued up to the issue for Feb. 18th. We have prepared a printed slip of corrections which we will be pleased to furnish on application to all subscribers who bind their numbers.

**Comments on the Customs.**



**CHRISTIAN SETS OFF ON HIS PILGRIMAGE.**-- Since our last issue the papers have had a good deal to say about the conversion of Sir John A. Macdonald, and the general disposition has been to speak of it in terms becoming so grave and delicate a matter. With the very few journals that have taken an opposite course, GRIP has no sympathy. Sir John certainly ought to have the benefit of the doubt, if there be one, and be given time to show his sincerity. If he has started off in the Christian path, it will soon be made manifest by his works. Now, amongst these works we have a right to expect certain political performances in the nature of "restitution." There would be good grounds to deny the sincerity of a thief who professed conversion,

if he still continued to live upon the interest of stolen money; and we cannot see that there is any difference, in principle, between such a case and that of a political leader, who, having adopted the Christian life, continues to enjoy the fruits of such measures as the Gerrymander Act and the Franchise Bill, both of which were passed from unworthy motives, and are essentially un-Christian. Sir John still bears the burden of these evil Acts upon his shoulders, and must be content to have his sincerity doubted so long as it is there. The casuistry which makes a distinction between a man's personal and political character no longer carries any weight with the public—a genuine regeneration makes him clean and honest throughout. This

is plain speaking, but it is the truth; and if Sir John has come to measure things in their true proportion in the light of the Christian religion, he will not hesitate to sacrifice, if need be, the beggarly gains of politics, to win the approval of his own conscience, and the sincere respect and veneration of his fellow-citizens.

**THE COMBINATION FIGHTING LEADER.**—The question of the leadership of the Opposition at Ottawa is not yet settled to the complete satisfaction of the rank and file. Mr. Laurier is highly esteemed for his spotless character and splendid eloquence, but a man cannot have all the gifts, and this excellent gentleman is deficient in fighting qualities. Sir Richard Cartwright, on the other hand, while less of an orator than Laurier, is a fighter from Sluggerville, and fulfils the highest desires of the restive back-benchers in that regard. Now, it is desirable, from the Opposition point of view, that these diverse qualities should be in some way united in the leader, and as two chieftains with equal authority is out of the question, the only solution of the difficulty would seem to be that suggested in our cartoon—a graceful and business-like combination. This idea ought to be all the more readily discussed as "combines" are just now so much in vogue at Ottawa. Think it over carefully, gentlemen on the Left.

**HERE'S** an interesting item from the *Chicago Mail* (Feb. 20th), which is almost as good as some of the *Empire's* arguments against the fact of the "Exodus":—

"Judge Altgeld will hold a night session of the Superior court this evening, when about 100 recruits enlisted by the Canadian American league will march up in a body and take out their first of second steps toward becoming American citizens. If it continues at this rate there will only be Sir John MacDonaldis and Louis Reils across the line."

\* \* \*

**POOR** young Neil was "worked off" on Tuesday morning by a cold-blooded wretch who took the job for \$50 and evidently relished it. Dr. Mewburn, a level-headed citizen, writes to the *Mail* to protest against the employment of hangmen by sheriffs, and GRIP agrees with him, that if those high officials are to enjoy all the emoluments of their positions they should be obliged to perform the disagreeable duties as well. A hired hangman generally possesses all the qualifications of a murderer, and the performance of such delegated "duties" is not likely to improve his moral character. If hanging is to be continued, let the sheriffs do the business.

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**THERE** is joy in the house of Bacchus over the repeal of the Scott Act in Halton, the liquor people having forgotten, in the excitement of the moment, that "more drinking is done under Prohibition than under license." They are disinterested and self-sacrificing enough, however, to take the risk of a return to the system of open bars. Whatever may have been the cause of the repeal majority, we do not believe that the people of Halton prefer license to no-license. No sane and civilized community would do so.

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**IT** is worth while, in this connection to investigate the charge made by the *Globe*, that the voting lists were so fixed as to admit of extensive personation and the polling of a large non-resident vote. If this is true, the mystery of the case vanishes. It only remains for temperance men to unite and insist upon the repeal of the present Franchise Bill which makes such frauds possible.

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**WHATEVER** else the Labor Commission may or may not have done, it has at least discovered the meanest man on record, in the person of a tanner in the vicinity of Montreal, who docked his men for time "lost" by them in saving one of their fellow-employees from drowning while in the performance of his duty! This discounts Mark Twain's story of the mining company