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Comments on the Cartoons.



SPECTACULAR JIM-JAMS. Sedate citizens, who have paused to give careful and critical examination to the big pictorial posters which have been ornamenting our city bill boards for the past fortnight, have been known to pass on declaring that no such animals ever have existed or ever could exist as the impossible monsters depicted in connection with the spectacular play of "The Twelve Temptations." As few of these matter-of-fact critics have ever gone through an attack of *delirium tremens*, they are not competent to give an opinion on the point, for the showman has honestly written at the bottom of the picture that it is a representation of that not unknown

complaint. GRIP, who is able like the wise man of the poet, to find sermons in stones, books in the running brooks and parables in posters, see in this outlandish picture a delineation of things as they are, or are likely soon to be, in Dominion politics. He has accordingly made a rough copy from the bill-board to point the moral. The nondescript shapes that are now making our statesmen uneasy are no mere creations of a fevered imagination, however, but the portentous questions which are presenting themselves for settlement—questions which involve the elements of language, race and religion, and are therefore particularly terror-inspiring to practical politicians whose one object in life is to quietly enjoy the good things of office.

THE SITUATION.—For the time being there is a lull in the official language fight. The compromise resolution, which apparently leaves the matter to be decided by the electors of the North-West Territories through their next Assembly, was passed by a good majority, and Mr. McCarthy gives notice that he will renew the struggle at the earliest opportunity and, in fact, "devote the rest of his political life" to the cause of a single official language. If Parliament really meant to leave the Territories free to "regulate the proceedings of the Assembly and the manner of recording and publishing such proceedings," it is hard to see why, in the meantime, it should be unwilling to remove the edict imposing official French up there. If the people want both languages they could easily replace French in case it were now abolished. It was clear all through the debate, and is plainly indicated in this illogical conclusion, that the party leaders were chiefly concerned to keep the French vote safe; and it was equally clear that the French contingent in the House were fighting more in their capacity as churchmen than as Frenchmen. The French language, and the civil rights and liberties of French-Canadians, are in no danger whatever, either in the North-West or elsewhere in the Dominion. The attack is only upon the official use of the language where such use is not necessary. The Church, no doubt, sets great store by the official language, but it must be remembered that, as members of the Canadian Parliament, neither Frenchmen nor Englishmen are supposed to know any Church, and certainly not to support extraordinary claims on the part of any Church. It is only too manifest, however, that the Church of Rome absolutely controls the Catholic members of the House, and that their vote in turn as absolutely controls both the Parties.



EXACTLY so, brother *World*. You voice our opinions so well that we cannot do better than quote your paragraph entire:

It is announced that Lieut. Stairs, the Canadian who accompanied Stanley, has in his possession a specimen of the dwarf tribes of Africa, and it is added: "Mr. Stairs

intends to take his captive to England, where he will doubtless attract great attention as the first representative of these tribes to journey so far north." Now, who commissioned Lieut. Stairs to go on a kidnapping expedition? Has that poor African no rights in the pre-

mises? His capture was a most unmitigated outrage, without one palliating circumstance, and none the less so because the subject was a poor, ignorant, helpless African.

* * *

THE fact is there are a good many points about this whole Stanley business which will not bear the light of investigation. While the ostensible object of the expedition was a noble one, and its carrying out was attended by many acts of heroic endurance, there was unquestionably a lot of unnecessary murdering and pillaging done. We do not see that this act of Lieut. Stairs in possessing himself of a "captive" is any better morally than the customary acts of the African slave stealers, of whom we hear so much.

* * *

THE Czar of Russia has received a threatening letter from a woman, and, according to the cable dispatch, every effort is being made to discover and arrest the writer of it. It is to be hoped the police will be successful, and when the daring criminal is caught we may safely trust that the punishment will be made to fit the crime, by having this woman stripped and flogged to death in the presence of all the men in the prison. This horrible business of sending threatening letters to the Czar must be stamped out. The poor dear wretch is kept in a constant state of terror, which makes it impossible for him to enjoy life as a dweller in a palace ought.