



AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL AND SATIRICAL JOURNAL

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The gravest heart is the Ass; the gravest bird is the Owl;
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the fool.

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BENGOUGH, MOORE & BENGOUGH.

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To Correspondents.

A. B., Chatham.—"Duck Shooting" sketch arrived too late for this issue.

C. M. R., Brantford.—Will attend to your case next week.

A. L.—Very welcome. Come regularly.

"Porcupine."—Contributions welcome. Always dealt with on their merits.

Cartoon Comments.

LEADING CARTOON.—The disallowance by the Ottawa Government of the South Eastern Railway Charter, which had been granted by the Manitoba legislature, is regarded by all excepting the members of the Syndicate and a few blind partizans of the ministry as a dangerous exercise of the prerogative of interference with Provincial autonomy. The feeling throughout the Dominion and especially in Manitoba is very bitter on the subject, and it is not at all unlikely that grave trouble may follow the bold and needless action of the Dominion Cabinet. But just at this juncture the comedian comes on the stage, and for the nonce the growlings of dissatisfaction are turned into laughter. This mirth provoking gentleman is Mr. Premier Norquay, in the character of "Toots," assuring the audience that although

the feelings of the Manitobans have been lacerated and his own ardent desires unceremoniously squelched, "it is of no consequence it is not of the slightest consequence in the world!" Mr. Norquay is afraid that the affair may end in a clash between him and the Ottawa magnates, and the result may be his disposal from office—in comparison with which in his opinion "nothing is of any consequence anywhere." In other words, Mr. Norquay (who is now at Ottawa on Provincial business), says in an interview that the disallowance of the charter has not offended the people of Manitoba much, and he thinks they'll soon get over it.

FIRST PAGE.—Mr. Mowat's government throws out hints about resorting to physical force in order to obtain the territory awarded by the Dominion Boundary Arbitrators. This would be a great mistake, besides being highly unjust to Sir John, who is really not in a position to hand over the document. A glance at the sketch will enable the reader to see just why he is not in a position—all on account of Chapleau.

EIGHTH PAGE.—Great minds run in the same channel. Not long ago Mr. J. Burr Plumb, M.P., got himself into an unparliamentary fury because he was pictured in GRIP, and now Prince Bismarck has got his autocratic back up about a cartoon in Punch. Our English contemporary has been forbidden to enter the Fatherland until further notice. Bismarck thus demonstrates that he is an ass, notwithstanding his political abilities.

The Bishop of Montreal is a good Christian man, and therefore he doesn't burn Mr. Houde at the stake, for writing his honest opinions in his paper, *Le Monde*. He simply orders the editor to take it all back. Mr. Houde is also an excellent Christian, and therefore he doesn't tell the Bishop to mind his own business, but takes off his hat and says he is sorry he cannot take it back, but is ready to give up the paper if that will satisfy the reverend father. And this is the nineteenth century!

Our Loyalty cartoons continue to call forth correspondence, and the letters received evince a deep interest on the subject in all parts of Dominion. The time has evidently come when Canadians must take the position of men in the world, and complete their charter of self-government by securing the right to conduct their commercial affairs with foreign nations for themselves, which authority they can have simply for the asking.

The anomaly of the present copyright law is one of the things that needs fixing. "Mark Twain" was refused a copyright for his latest book in Canada, quite properly, because his people will not grant a similar favour to any Canadian. But Mark knows a thing or two. He understands, for instance, the present relation of Canada to the Empire, so he goes to England and copyright a book there. An

English copyright, of course, extends to Canada, and so Mr. "Twain" has secured his purpose via London instead of Ottawa, and all other American authors are at liberty to do the same.

Apocryphal of Mark's unsuccessful visit to Ottawa, Nast has a cartoon in a late number of *Harper's Weekly*. The fact that copyright business is in this country entrusted to the Minister of Agriculture seems to amuse the artist immensely, and that is the chief idea brought out in the drawing. It does appear to be a rather ludicrous arrangement, and if Nast's laughter will cause a change to something more seemly, he will deserve our thanks.

One placard in the cartoon bears the words, "We (Canadians) cabbage all we can from the Americans." This is well fitted to provoke a retort, and the material is abundant. We have only this week received a letter from a correspondent, who tells how he entrusted funds to an institution in New York (the American Book Exchange), and has failed to hear anything of his money, though he has written to the Receiver in Bankruptcy, a Government official in charge of the concern. Harpers themselves are scarcely in a position to throw stones when "cabbageing" is before the house.

In a handsome volume just published in the States under the title of "The Household Library of Catholic Poets," we are proud to observe that a young Canadian author finds a place of honour. We allude to Mr. Thos. O'Hagan, at present Head Master of the Chatham Separate Schools. The editor of the volume points out that Mr. O'Hagan's special characteristics, as a writer of both prose and poetry, are beauty of diction, energy and pathos. Two of his poems are given, which quite sustain this estimate.

It ought to be pleasant for the St. George's Society blackballers to read that Mr. Goldwin Smith has been the honoured guest of Lord O'Hagan (Lord Chancellor of Ireland), Rt. Hon. Mr. Gladstone, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, during his present visit to the Old Country.

We hope and trust that the Government will respond to the appeal of the newspaper publishers to repeal the law which at present obliges the latter to pre-pay the postage on all papers sent out. The publishers only ask that newspapers be carried free in the counties in which they are published, and considering the prosperous state of our revenue, and the difficulty publishers of country papers have in collecting their subscriptions in advance, the request is a very modest and reasonable one. The petitioners should have added a clause advising the abolition of the present unnecessary and burdensome duty on type and printers' supplies.

The Ohio farmers are barbarians; some of them shook a cornfield by their actions.—*Hornet*.