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## 



Champagne as a Lubricator，－The truly good Temperance Government of Ontario lubricated the sale of timber－limits the other day with champagne，and the consequence was that the affair was the most successful thing of the kind on record．This has naturally had a great effect upon the practical minds of the Local Cabinet，and it is said that champagne will hereafter be regularly incorporated into the Government policy，though of course Mr． Mowat and his colleagues will remain as true to the principles of prohibition－morally and theoretically－as ever．A broad scheme is now under discussion，we understand，looking to the practical application of champagne to Governmental uses．If we are not misin－ ormed，the ministers have decided to work the new attachment on the floor of the chamber in the coming session，to facilitate the passage of Government measures．The only point which secms to give trouble is the expensiveness of champagic，Treasurer Ross thinks that cheap whiskey would have preciscly the same effect at half the cost，and in this his collcagues entirely agree，Hut the question is，wouldn＇t cheap whiskey be rather a low thing for a truly temperance Government to dabble in．Champagne sounds tonier， but，groans the frugal Attorney－General，it＇s so confoundedly dear！

Norquay＇s Dilemma．－Sir Charles Tupi er has been up to lis eyes in business at Winnipeg．The usual air of mystery has sur－ rounded his doings，but it is pretty generally understood that he is in the Prairic city in the interests of the Norquay Government， which is in the unhappy predicament of being without a majority in the Jouse．There is only one way of getting over this difficulty in the absence of a confidence－compelling policy，and that is to purchase support，which can be managed in a variety of ways known to our experienced statesmen．It is stated that this is the idea Sir Charles has been discussing with the＂faithful，＂but we can hardly believe it．It doesn＇t seem at all like him，but just now it may be presumed the honornble gentleman is a trifle fishy．

A New＂Message．＂－－The Globe and other journals of the same political stripe，who acquiesced in the Malvern policy，have leen trmupeling the praises of President Cleveland for his display of the opposite kind of thing．Says the Hamilton Times：＂It does us good to sce the Reform papers praise President Cleveland for speaking out plainly in favor of free trade．They all think that he has been wise to take the bull by the horns，and let friends and enemies know exactly what he means．Some of them ought to try the cap on．Too many Reformers have coquetted with protection， and when the Times gave them sound，orthodox，out－and－out frce trade doctrine，they have replicd with such platitudes as＇right in theory but impossible in praclice．＇It is worse than silly to hedge on the tariff question．Nobody is fooled by the man who straddles the fence．Cobden never told the people that the requirements of the revenue rendered a bigh tariff necessary．Bright never said that he would always remember vested interests in any readjustment of the tariff．Villiers never pretended to believe that wages were lept up by fiscal protection．All the great English free traders talked out plainly，and let the people know what they meant． President Cleveland has adopted the same policy，and he stands to win by it．＂

## OUR SHOWS．

For Christmas，Mr．Sheppard，the enterprising man－ ager of the Grand Opera House has secured the ever－ welcome Irish comedian，Joe Murphy，\＆Co．，in a round of Irish characters，viz．，Kerry Gow，Shaun Rue and his new comedy，the Donagh．The managers look forward to the largest icceipts at regular prices that the Grand has ever known．There will be three matinecs，Monday （Xmas），Wednesday and Saturcony．

The Brooklyn Eagle has this to say of Chas．A．Gard－ ner in the new Karl，who appears this week at the To－ ronto Opera House ：－＂Charles A．Gardner at the Novelty theatre，as Karl，jumped into popular favor last evening，as was evinced by the frequent calls he received to appear before the curtains．Karl is a fun－loving Dutchman，and his songs are new．He sings something after the style of Joe Emmet，but much better，and the audience is considerably surprised to learn how his story turns out．The theatre was comfortably filled，and if Gardner receives his just dues，there ought to be a sign， ＇standing room only，＇displayed early in the evenings hereafter．＂

## ——？

He－What queer things you do see in the papers， Here＇s the Canada Citizen speaking of a＂Liquor Deal－ ers＇Procession，＂and it says ：－
＇Ayc，dealers，indeed，not in corn，nor wheat，nor cotton，nor meat，nor anything that meets a real need of our common humanity； but only that which ministers to the lowest passions，and degrades and brutalizes a race already sunk low enough without such infernal helps as maddening liquors furnish．＇＂

She－＿＂Well isn＇t that all right？＂
He－＂That＇s as you may think；but on the same page I find this receipe ：－

Mince l＇ies wiriiour Meat．－Take of currants，apples chopped finc，etc．，nutmeg and mace to suit the palate，and a glass of brandy．＇
Jh ？？？？＂
She－＂Well for mince－pie，you know－h＇m．＂

## Addeess to mxy Gla Grey Goose.

> No. II.

What's ta'en thy noddle, my grey goose,
To follow me roun' a' the hoose?
Art bearer o' a flag o' truce
Frae thy ain breed?
Or really, has a screw gane loose
In thy auld heid?
Is't, as my bairns aft laughin' say,
" Like draws tae like, let come what maj, Related spirits lind their way Close to ill: ither."
And so in me, puir goosie gray!
Ye've found a brither.
Or hast thou found the plain truth out-
(Like mony a puir four-footed brute)
That I'll no jeer thee, gibe and hout
$A$ ithers dac ;
And hence tae me ye mak jour suit
For sympathy.
Nae doot we're but a laughing stock
To some big siliy senseless folk,
Wha o' the humble mak a mock,
And only sce
My friendship as an idle joke
Till-wair'd on thee.
Guid kens thou art nae singing bird :
But ane o' the puir sangless herd,
That's trampled owre like common yird-
Ah wae is me:
And ne'er a poet has a word
To say for thee.
To Jove's big bird yer no connected,
Must ye be thercfore disrespected,
And a' your virlues be neglected,
And Irae rebuffs
Ye maunna hope to be protected-
Frae common roughs :
We're told that like the common rabble, In dirty dubbs ye like tae dabblc,
And that ye're always in a squabble,
And quack owre free ;
So it sanna be wrang tae libel And misca' thee.

Thrown up oot o' creation's scum,
Wha kens but thou'rt a herald come,
lirae a' the helpless and the dumb,
To find some way
To lessen the appalling sum
O' misery.
Or hast thou come to love me, when
Forgotten by my fellow-men ?
Ilast come indeed to let me ken That I've been brought
To being's heart far farther ben Than e'er I thought ?

For aft when gazing upon thee,
Frae the restraints o' space set free,
Far into being I can see,
While through my soul
The great wave o' humanity
Doth heave and roll.
Ale.iander m‘Lachlan.

## A DEFINITION WANTED.

The phrase " limiced liability" is one peculiarly inter esting to creditors-and to some directors also, at the present moment. There are some creditors who think that the word "limited" ought to refer to the amount the directors can borrow, rather than to the amount they must repay after they have borrowed.


Another lost art-French Cabinet-Making!
The gas works at Winnipeg were burned last week. We trust Mr. N. F. Davin was not much hurt !

General Boulanger says that France has more need of generals than deputies. Not of the Andlan typedecoration generals !

The Nepaul army have joined the revolutionary party of Frince Rumbir Jung. Every soldier hopes to wear a Nepaulet on the success of the enterprise!

On Elm Street the other evening a tall man robbed a pedestrian of his watch and escaped. One prefers a policeman to a night-watchman of this ticket!

The Scott Act around Port Perry may be said to be getting along at a fine rate. A revolution of public sentiment is likely to result from the use of the revolver!

The threatened fight between the Russian bear and the Austrian eagle will probably result in a treaty, written with the eagle's feather, into which the bear will insert its clause!

Mayor Howland has been giving New York a lecture on civic government. 'The Augean stables of Toronto are not yet cleaned out ; as the municipal Hercules left off in the middle of his labor!

Mr. Gladstone visits Venice next month. This is one of his numerous birthplaces, and he will probably make a few re-Marks on the Lion, sighse up the famous bridge, and enlist Venetian sympathy for Ireland!

The Crown Prince of Germany has requested that no public entertainments be put off on account of his illness. It is to be hoped that as he does not wish to interfere with the fotes, the Fates will not interfere with him!

Lively scenes may be expected in the British House of Commons next session. Speaker Peel has broken a blood-vessel in his optic region, and will not be expected to keep such a sharp eye on the Irish interruptionists !

Mr. Crane, a builder, was charged with obstructing the sidewalk. He justly claimed 15 feet, and said the inspector must have stretched his tape-line. The magis. trate decided Crane must have stretched his neck out too far!

The Rev. Joseph Cook, speaking of Toronto, said, " Let us thank God that there is one city in America which has quit fooling with fools." He has evidently not seen the list of candidates for the position of First Magistrate!

## TWO METHODS OF "HOW NOT TO DO IT."

## THE DOMINION RLAN.

WIIEN the country domands some particular measure, Which doesn't quite suit exactly the Premier's pleasure, Sir John A. Macdonald will promise compliance If on Tory rule they will still place reliance. Years pass without action-the clamor's renewed, And, when pie-crust pledges no longer delude-When he cannot with safety from action refrain, And hope the support of his friends to retain, He gets out of the fix and secures his position By referring the thing to a Royal Commission; A few party heelers get handsomely paid, And the measure is still sine die delayed. THE ONTARIO PLAN.

When Premier Mowat is asked to abate Some long-standing abuse in affairs of the state, And to prove that the Grit party's loud-vaunted claim To be truly " Liberal " is more than a narne, Deputations he greets with the serenest of smiles, And earnest Reformers politely beguiles By remarking, " I've noted each wise observation, It shall have my most serious consideration."

The result's just the same-nay, not quite, for we know That while Royal Commissions are but empty show, They are apt to dip into the Treasury deep, But "consideration" comes awfully cheap.


Pastor-Well, Mr. Gallagher, what can I do for you?
D/r. G.-I've called to see you about the wine question, sir. I've been a total abstainer up to now, but as I've just reached my twentyfirst year-
l'asior-Let her go, Gallagher !
(Gallagher is as muth in the dark as eiver, as he doesn't know which he ought to "let go"-the acine or his appetite.)

## A CARNIVAL OF MUD.

Montreal is not going to have any snow carnival this year. Now is Toronto's chance. Why should not we attract visitors by the unique and characteristic spectacle of a mid carnival, for which this city possesses such unrivalled facilities? It could be held in the early spring when the mud is at its deepest and Toronto most frequently recalls its former solviquet of Muddy Little York. A mud carnival let it be by all means. Montrealers have shown us how to make the best of what every sensible
and right-minded person considers an unmitigated nuisance and source of discomfort-the snows and frosts of winter. They make believe that they really enjoy the cold weather. Why should not we take a leaf out of their book and celebrate the apotheosis of mud, dignify, glorify and revel in our mud, seeing that we can't by any possibility get rid of it.

Grip presents the following suggestions for a programme of sports and exercises which would doubtless by their novelty attract a large number of visitors from all points of the compass:

1. Extra deep and carefully neglected mud lake at the corner of King and Yonge streets as the principal attraction and scene of the games.
2. Grand torchlight procession of scavengers, streetsweepers and street arabs with implements.
3. Mud-splashing tournament, open to hackmen, butcher boys and expressmen.
4. Grand competition open to all pedestrians, with prizes to those crossing the mud lake with least detriment to their apparel.
5. Fishing for catfish and eels in mud lake.
6. Mud-slinging match, open to all practical editors and aldermen. This to be made the special feature of the occasion.
7. Prize oration and poem on the beauties and pleasures of mud, and its utility in promoting the public health and convenience.

As Toronto is entitled to the distinction of being the muddrest city on the continent, why should we not take a pride in it and endeavor to turn our undoubted pre-eminerice to some practical account? Whatever objections some chronic pessimists and croakers may offer to this proposition it must at least be admitted that in the words of the author of "Bad Ballads,"

The novelty would striking be
And most attract remark.

## TRICHOLOGICAL PROGRESS.

Of organizing societies, as of making many books, there is no end. One of the latest is the British Trichological Association, the object of which is "to trace the loss of hair to its true causes," and endeavor to discover a remedy. We do not notice the name of the Heir Apparent to the Throne on the list of leading members, though his patronage would be both significant and appropriate. It includes, as might be expected, some prominent members of the Whig party. The organization cannot fail to have an attraction, a capillary attraction, so to speak, for many to whom the bald statement of the tonsorial artist as to the rapidity of the process of cranial denudation is unsatisfactory. Whether a lady can become a member is not stated. Some perhaps would not consider her-suit-able for the honor. Certain it is that should a gentleman of color, whose appearance indicated a personal interest in the solution of the problem, present himself for adinission he would be black-balled.

The inaugural address, dealing with the causes of baldness, is principally remarkable for its omission of any allusion to the well-known relation between a lack of the natural headcovering and a regular patronage of burlesque opera. All sorts of causes for the premature falling out of the hair were assigned, but no mention whatever was made of the fact long familiar to every professional humorist, that statistics clearly show that about two-thirds-some scientists place the proportion as high as
three-fourths-of the adult male occupants of front seats at a ballet performance exhibit smooth and polished craniums. We are afraid the Trichological Association are not approaching the subject of its research in a truly scientific spirit. If they want to get at the root of the matter and save the roots of the hair, they ought to investigate the mysterious relation between baldness and the ballet, and ascertain why the atmosphere of the opera house is so much more destructive to capillary growth than that of the church or concert hall. The Trichologists should quit fooling and get right down to business.

## A REPLY TO A PLEA

(for the sol.e singer of an empty lay whicil appeared in I.AST WEEK'S WEAK "WEEK.")

Nor by you the gems Dug-you only wear 'em ;
Not by you the boats
Built-you only stcer 'em:
Not by you the cards
Made-you only deal 'em;
Nat your own the poems, But the way you steal 'em.

Though the boats are built
Bad-you still must use 'em ;
Though the gems are not
Paste-you sometimes lose 'em ;
Though the cards are well
Stacked-you only fake 'em :
If your poems be stuff
Why ask us to take 'em ?
Do not be afraid
You among the others,
Of that counlless horde, Your rhyme-twisting brothers;
Fame does not receive Stolen goods nor conceal 'em ;
Who cares for your poems,
Or the way you steal 'em?
Geranium.

## A LECTURER LECTURED.

THE inaugural lecture of the V.M.C.A. course was delivered last night in the small hall of the Association building by the Hon. $G$. W. Ross, Minister of Education. The subject was entitled "Our National Outfit." The lecturer said he had been unable to find that warm attachment to the Canadian soil and institutions among the youth of the country that he would like to see. It would be instructive to analyze the material elements constituting our national outfit, and the result might encourage Canadians to love their country as she deserved. He wished to show that Canada offered every scope for the ambition and energy of our young men. Under the head of material outfit he reviewed the extent of the territory of the Dominion, and its wealth, resources, under, in and on the soil. Canada has an arca of $3,610,000$ square miles, or 55,000 square miles more than the United States, or within 145,000 square miles of the whole area of Europe. Canada was thirty times the aren of Grent Britain and Ireland. In England every man had on the average $1!$ acres of land on the basis of an equal division; in Ger. many 3 acres, France 3童; Ireland 4, the United States 40, Canada 64. There was room, therefore, here for the surplus population of the Old Land. -Mazi, zist.
The hon. the Minister of Education had adjusted his overcoat and shining "plug," and was departing from the hall after the fine effort from which the above is extracted, when he was accosted at the door by a threadbare, cranky-looking but evidently overjoyed, fellow-man.
"Excuse me, Mr. Ross, for speaking up to a real live Minister of the Crown, seein' as I'm only a common tramp, but would you mind telling me where them sixtyfour acres of mine is situated ?"
"I don't know what you mean, my man," said Mr. Ross, kindly.
"Why, didn't you say as every man in Canada has sixty-four acres?"
"Oh, I see. Why, of course, you understand that I meant that there is enough land in Canada to give every man that much if it was equally distributed."
"Oh," rejoined the other. "Well, why don't they distribute it equally?"
" My good man, that's a very silly question," replied Mr. Ross. "Most of the land is taken up, you know."
"Taken up?" queried the tramp, with new interest ; "do you mean arrested ?"
"No ; I mean it is ozuned by various individuals."
"Ah, I see!" said the cranky person, brightly; "then some other fellow has got my sixty-four acres; is that it?"
"Well, yes; that's one way of putting $i t$, " said the Hon. G. W. "But you know there are thousands more situated just as you are; in fact, a good majority of the people of Canada are non-owners of land."
"But, of course the fellows who own and use our land pay us an equivalent for its value every year in the shape of taxes, don't they ?" persisted the tramp.
"No; not that I am aware of," courteously replied Mr. Ross; "the tax on land is merely nominal. But what put such an idea into your head ?"
" You did," said the tramp, with some emphasis.
" $I$ !" said the minister with a thunderstricken air.
"Yes, you! didn't you say in your lecture that there should be a warm attachment to the Canadian soil among the youth of the country?"
"Yes; I said that. What then?"
"Well; you don't expect anybody to enthuse over another man's property, do you? Now, if the land of Canada belongs to every Canadian, as you say, those who occupy and use it oughter pay for its use to the public till every year, just by way of showing that it did belong to every Canadian. If that was done, there would be some sense in Canadians having a fond attachment for the soil of their native land. Isn't that clear enough?"
"It does look as though there was something in that," said Mr. Ross, seriously. "But here's my car. Good night, stranger, I'll think that idea over."

And Mr. Ross rode home very thoughtful indeed.

## ONE NEW YEAR'S DAY.

It was New Year's Day, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eight. The great metropolis of Ontario had donned its winter holiday garb of ermine, the day was blue and sparkling; the populace gay, happy, and in excellent spirits, were welcoming New Year by friendly visits to each other, by skating, sleigh-driving, and all kinds of innocent merry-making. Well-dressed crowds thronged the streets, and the city generally had that air of well-to-do self-respect, such as is seen only in Canada. Watching the crowds that good-naturedly seethed up and down Yonge Street, stood, with his back to the wall, a man, whose worn habiliments and shabby hat betokened him to be no denizen of the City of Toronto. He gazed up and down the streets with an air of bewilderment and "perplexity, and ever and again he would utter the words, "Lost, clean lost."

At last, a respectably dressed boy, who had been darting too and fro among the crowd, stopped immediately in front of the stranger and said, "Paper, sir ? Morning
paper ?" "Ya-as, gimme a paper-an' say, lookee here, boy." "Yes, sir," said the boy, handing him a paper, and looking up in some surprise.
"Can you tell me where a fellow can get a drink ?"
" Why, yes-course-come along an' I'll show you."
The boy led through the crowd a little distance downward, and pointed to a drinking fountain. "There," said he, "you can drink all you want there."

The stranger gazed motionless on the boy for a few minutes, and then gasped, "Well, I'll be blowed !"
"You will, eh? Why?"
"Why? I'll mighty soon tell you why. When a fellow has bin in limbo for twenty years for suthin' he done when he was blind drunk-an' in all that time ha'int never got a taste of anything that can bite, do you suppose its cold water he's a-hankerin' after?"
"Oh! well, I guess not-guess you want to go down to that coffee-house, you'll get coffee or tea there hot enough to bite, and only five cents a cup, too, with a roll," said the boy, with the air of a pleasant recollection on his face.

Again the man gazed at the boy with intensified wonder. "Well, if you ain't the greenest coon for a boy of your age! Look here-you've got to understand me, or by -, what are you scared at? Where is the nearest saloon ? I want a drink o' whiskey. I bin wanderin' up an' down this hour, ever since I cum off the train, lookin' fur a bar, an' I'm blessed if I can strike a blamed one."
"Is a saloon a place where folks used to get drunk in?" inquired the boy, running the man over with his eye.
"That's it," cried the man, slapping his greasy thigh, "you struck it then-you ain't so slow as I tuk ye for. Show me a saloon an' I'll gie ye a nickel."
"I can't."
"You can't, eh! Why?"
"'Cause there ain't any saloons any more. The year I was born the saloons were all shut up."

The man leaned faintly against a lamp-post and glowered at the boy in speechless astonishment. The boy in equal wonder looked at him, nodded and added-
"True's you're born."
"What'r ye givin' us?" he inquired, hoarsely-then he sprang on the boy with the roar of a famished lion. "Who're ye foolin'-tell me this minit where's a saloon, where's any place at all where I can get a drink. I'm bound to have a blow out if I tramp the whole blamed city for it."

The boy dodged the large hand outstretched to clutch him-and said, "Tramp then-mighty good job you can't get it-if you're like that sober."
"Hey ! ye would, would ye? I tell ye there ain't any saloons an' no whiskey nor anything to make a beast of ye in this city. The year I was born was Prohibition year, an' my name's John Prohibition Thompson. Now will ye believe me-mother christened me that 'cause father used always to be drunk-and she was so glad, 'cause he'd be sober all the time-an' he is too-can't help it."
"Well, I swan! Say, kin you direct me to Paddy Rat's place?"

The boy shook his head.
"Don't you know Paddy Rats?"
"Was that the fellow that was hung a long time ago?" asked the boy.
" My gum! I dunno-how could I know, shet up in that there penitentiary? Well, here's a rummy go-no
whiskey-no saloons-no chance of a treat-Paddy Rats gone-an' me here on New Year's day-sober! Think I'll go to the Central Prison, and p'raps I might get a glimpse of some of the jail boys I remember. Say, is there lots of fellows in the jail now?"
"No! they're talking about turning it into a children's hospital, or an old folks' refuge or something-'cause its empty most the time."
"P'lice court every mornin' though ?"
"No, the police court is only once a week now, an' then there's nothin' to do-lawyers all emigratin'."
" You don't say !-well, I s'pose there's nothing for it but coffee," said the man, with a sigh of resignation, "but it will seem lonesome without the boys and without a blow out once in a while, and-oh say, Bob-where's the police?"
"Oh! round somewhere I guess-there ain't only a few now-force been reduced twice in the last ten years -no use for them."
" Well! well! this country must be going to the dogs altogether ; why, in my time they were always increasin' the force. The drunks alone kept the police court busy all morning. Black Maria was always on the go in my time, an' the murders, an' the fights, an' the people found dead, an' suicided with drink, kept reporters busy I tell ye. An' the newsboys, well sonny you ain't like a newsboy in my time-not much, Mary Ann-they'd got to hustle in them days, for most all their parents drank, and if they didn't bring in the spondulicks they'd got to tell why. It makes me sad and weary-I'm not used to them slow-going times, and I don't know as I like it. Say, where did you say that coffee-house was?"
"There," said the boy, indicating an open door imme. diately behind the man.
The man turned and walked in, and opened the inner door. For a moment he stood irresolute. "Oh Lord!" he muttered in dismay as he saw the long clean hall, the snowy linen, the cozy little seats at the dining tables, and in consternation he was about to beat a retreat, when a bright little waitress stepped up to him and said, with a smile, "Come in, sir, coffee or tea?"
"Coffee," said he, huskily, and sat down awkwardly, while the paper boy, looking after him, nudged a companion and said, "Oh man, what a funny coon has just gone in there-regular Rip Van Winkle-wanted to find a saloon!" "A saloon! what's that, Johnny?" "A place to drink stuff in that makes you drunk, out of your mind."
"Oh pshaw! What do you take me for?" "Fart, Really." "Great Crasar! Morning paper, sir ?"

## WHAT NEXT ?

Grip found on his desk the other day a little papercovered book called "A Christmas Chat." With some curiosity he opened it and found to his astonishment that it was all about Love and Religion ; and to his still greater astonishment that it was by Mr. Arnold Haultain. Grip had imagined that Mr. Haultain was chiefly employed in setting the teachers of Ontario by the ears on educational matters; and to find him writing glibly and, yes, interestingly, on love and religion was a surprise. And an agreeable surprise, too, for Mr. Haultain's "Chat" has some very good things in it,-amongst others his opinion of the "out-and-out flirt," as he calls her. Get it, reader, by way of spice to your Xmas dish.

## TRADE AND LABOR ITEMS.

LOCAL.
Compositors on the morning papers say their business is picking up.

Toronto plumbers are not a dissipated class of mechanics, yet they are all slaves to the pipe.

Carpenters are not complaining; their business is bracing up a bit.

The street car men are still driving things.
Tailoring is just sew sew.
The slate-roofing business is dull ; 'slate in the season. MISCELLANEOUS.
Farmers are a very secretive people. Terrible hiders, you know, and they get into many a scrape by it.

Butchers don't always take the bull by the horns, but they get there just the same and meat him in warm quarters.

Horseshoers are continually making mistakes. Instead of hitting the nail on the head they always hit it on the foot.

The gopher bounty in Dakota has been abolished. It was found that there were too many furriers in the State to gopher the bounty.

Stubus.


THE UNFORTUNATE HUSBAND.
SCENE-Toronto Police Court. Doolan up for assaulting his wife.
The Magistrate-Doolan, your wife doesn't wish to prosecute; but the costs of the case must be paid. Which of you'll pay them?

Doolati-O, I suppose r'll have to. (Tiurning to his avife) Have you any money?

## WAR PREPARATIONS.

We see by the papers that the Government has decided to put our militia forces in good shape, fit up our coast defences, and, in the words of the despatch, "put Canada in a position to maintain her own against outside aggression." Not a moment too soon! Good on the Government. We only hope the military preparations will be completed before the invaders reach our shores. It is pretty well known, although the papers have considerately kept it quiet, that the Patagonians are bent upon capturing Canada. Ha, ha! we wonder what they will think when they hear this news! Then there are the Esquimaux of Labrador, who have notoriously been awaiting a chance to make an aggression upon us for a century past. Their fat also is in the fire! Go ahead, pat-
riotic Government-it won't cost more than a few millions to put Canada on a war footing, and the people will only be too glad to pay the piper, that they may feel safe from the threats of the blood-thirsty nations which surround us with hostile intent. Push the good work for all you are worth, Sir Adolphe! And-if Grip may be so bold as to make a suggestion to such a great military au-thority-be sure you have a Krupp gun mounted at Gaspe, with which the Atlantic can be swept of English paupers and eye-glassed swells. The immediate danger to Canada, in our opinion, is from "outside aggressions" of this sort.

## OUR NEW CONTEM.

Brother Empire, shake! But perhaps, as you intend going in for pure English, you don't quite comprehend this greeting. We mean, tip us your flipper-not "shake" in any abject sense. You will not do that, we know, with such an editor as John Livingstone, who is as brave in the jungles of journalism as his great namesake was in the wilds of Aftica. Hail, Empire, Grip welcomes you to the fields of daily newspaperdom, where he hopes you may long live and flourish. You fill a want long felt by an organless Government. As you say, your "capital of $\$ 250,000$ is ample, and guarantees financial sound-ness"-quite true ; now see to it that your moral capital in the way of truth is equally ample, so that your political soundness may be likewise guaranteed. You will always find Grip by your side in every good cause, and in vindicating old Sir John from any unjust charges his enemies may make against him. We will back up your valiant David when he goes forth to slay the Opposition Go-liar, and will refrain from hitting you except when you happen to be astray yourself. Vive L'Empire.'

## QUITE A CATTLE-LOGUE.

The St. Juhn, N.B., Sun accuses Mr. Charlton of using "the steer argument" in favor of Commercial Union. What if he did? It is nothing new to use a stock argument.-Globe.

And it is a bully argument too. It is calculated to carry persuasion to many who are waiting to see how the cat'll jump, as it were. If heifer commercial union is adopted it will be by presenting practical considerations of this kine. Its advocates are not to be cowed by unreasoning bluster but must persevere until their antagonists are drove from their position. When the business of the Commission is fairly opened they will be very apt to find themselves between the horns of a dilemma. We could keep right along in this strain for a column or so, but we forbear.

We should recommend some of the Central Bank Directorate and Board of Management to apply for positions in the new Chinese American Bank. Canadians would rejoice to hear they had a larger field for their peculiar financial abilities!
"Are you a believer in Lynch law, pa?" asked the minister's little boy, who was reading something of Bret Harte's. "No," replied the rev. gentleman, looking up absently from the letter he was writing to the Mail, "No ; I think the law's most unjust. I don't see why the Archbishop doesn't have to pay income tax as well as any of us!"



PARDEE'S TRIUMPH.
Ulimate alltude of the Timber Limit larons who kicked against the increased Provincial fees. Vivat Pardec!

## AN INTERVIEW WITH VAN HORNE.

Mr. Grip, feeling dissatisfied with the statements of the daily press re the alleged proposed C.P.R. deal, sent his dapper Young Man to have a private interview with Mr. Van Horne.

Mr. V. H. was found upon a crimson plush throne in the bejewelled presence-chamber of the Head Offices, and received our Young Man with his customary courtesy.
"Just one moment of your Gracious Highness' time," pleaded our Young Man, dropping gracefully for a moment on one knee, and then assuming the air of equality which so well becomes the emissary of a Great Power.
"I am yours to command," said Mr. Van Horne blandly, but with a touch of irony in his voice.
"It is reported," began our Interviewer, "that the C.P.R. has a new deal on foot-either $\$ 10,000,000$ nore cash from the public treasury, or a perpetual guarantee of three per cent. to the stockholders of the railway from the same source. Is there any truth in this?"
" Mot a word!" promptly replied Mr. Van Horne.
"Ah !-you do not know how you relieve me!" ejaculated our Young Man.
"I hope you didn't believe this of us," said Mr. Va Horne, with a tremble in his voice and a moistening eye.
" Well-er-I don't know but I did do you that injustice," responded our Inter-viewer-"but I'm glad I was wrong. Can you tell ms how such a vile canard got afloat, Mr. Van Horne?"
"I think I can guess," replied the Manager, frankly. "It was a case of mix-upsuch as sometimes occurs. We made a proposition to the Government lately, and it has been wrongly interpreted by those who got the facts incorrectly."
"Indeed? What was it?"
" Well," resumed Mr. Van Horne, " I suppose I may as well tell you. We offered to give three per cent. of our gross earnings to our employees by way of increase of salaries, and to donate $\$ 10,000,000$ to the public till $t 0$ relieve the weight of our monopoly in the North-West. You see how our proposition has got twisted?"
" Yes, most infamously twisted," exclaimed our Young Man, warmly. "May I enquire if you have any plans for the future you can make known ?"
"Well-er--nothing special, beyond our intention to pay back at once the money we have borrowed from the Government ; to relinquish all the unjust rights we have secured, to release the land we now hold to actual settlers free of charge, to carry freight and passengers at fair and moderate rates, and to divide our earnings with the deserving poor."
"Is that all ? "queried our Representative.
"For the present, yes," replied Mr. Van Horne. "We have plans of a strictly philanth:opic nature in view, but they cannot be made known as yet. You can simply say in the meantime that the C.P.R. is an unmixed blessing to the Dominion, and that it will not cost the country a cent."
"Thanks," said our Reporter.
He then withdrew.

A well-known clergyman of this city has noticed that charity always gets cold in the churches when controversy gets hot.-Christian Union.

## BUY ONE OF EACH.

Grin's Comic Almanac for 1888 has had an enormous sale for a Canadian publication. Thousands have bought one, enjoyed the comicalities in it, and then mailed it to a friend in the U. S., or abroad, just to show that the "Canucks" can get up something creditable. Price ro cents.

THE same remarks apply equally well in the case of Grir's splendid Christmas number, Deautifully lithographed in colors. Only io cents a copy.

Tife Eifistles o' Airlie is the title of the collection, in book form, of the "Airlie" letters which have appeared in Grip during the last few years. It is the best book of Scottish humor ever published. Mr. J. W. Jengough has drawn special illustrations for this edition, and the book is clestined to meet with a ready sale. Price 25 cents a copy, in thick paper covers.
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#### Abstract

"I AM at your service, ma'am," as the burglar said when the lady of the house caught him stealing her silver. Butrlington Free Prees.

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Magazine Editor-"Tell him to leave it with the clerk."
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"Do his clothes fit him ?"
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"Pants bag at the knees?"
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"Admit him."-Omaha World.

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