

G R I P.

EDITED BY MR. BARNADY RUDGE.

The grabest Beast is the Ass; the grabest Bird is the Owl;
The grabest Fish is the Oyster; the grabest Man is the Fool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1874.

UNDER the heading "Printers' Accounts," the Brockville Recorder, the oldest Reform paper in Ontario says:

"The Tory press are making much ado about the London Advertiser's Election account against Major WALKER. The account amounted to \$600 or \$700. We do not see why printers should work for nothing, as they are often compelled to do. The Press, especially the country press, is too often used by the ambitious for which no return is received. Even the Government, who receive so much support, ignore the country press. The Reform Press have often been twitted as paid partizans, while there is not a country paper in Ontario which, at present, receives \$10 a year from the Government. During Sir JOHN's reign things were different, as the public accounts can testify. Yet, we do not blame Sir JOHN for being liberal to the Press. They deserve to be treated liberally."

These are the words of an elder and a sage, a man of experience and candor. We fully uphold the influence of the "fourth estate," and its value to the ambitious who rise by its aid, and who too often despise the means of their ascent. Whether Grit or Tory acts thus its effect tends to disorganization, for the party newspaper everywhere is the great common medium of inter-communication, without which chaos reigns. If any party or set of men have a newspaper which they expect to enunciate their views or advance their cause, it is their policy as well as their duty to support it. As well might a man ask a lawyer as a newspaper man to support his cause for nothing. There is much in common in comparing the barrister and the editor, both in the expectations of their clients and the manner in which their payments are considered; but even the Brockville Recorder would be horrified to find every political writer a free lance, willing to take up and further to the best of his professional ability the claims and interests of the person who fees him. Party newspapers in this hold rather an anomalous position in the community, in that they hold fast one set of opinions to the utter exclusion of the opposite set. Yet there are certain general principles upon which parties differ, and the journals of each may easily uphold these, while at the same time they should not be expected to focus their views upon any individual member even though he told similar views in general, without the retainer is offered. This may not be in accordance with party ethics; but being in the position of an outsider we can speak with complete independence and sincerity, if not with authority. Gurr has already done much for both Tories and Grits, yet from neither the late or the present government has he received so much as a grain of corn. To both parties he is—not indebted—reciprocally related, without the formality of a Treaty; he provides what he thinks will best please his patrons and pay himself; he has never yet been offered a retainer as counsel in any case before the full jury of the Canadian people but hopes that his success hitherto as a volunteer advocate will count for much when his services are asked. He don't blame Sir JOHN for being liberal; but is amused to see the oldest Grit paper acknowledge now that he was more liberal than the Liberal Government. Does the Recorder mean "send me another \$10,000," or "come along, JOHN?" Truly "during Sir JOHN's reign things were different." Anyway Grip can say "These claws are clean."

Notes from Grip's Private Box.

Mrs. MORRISON's Grand Opera House has been packed every night of the week with delighted audiences. The new company was received with much favour on the opening night, and has since steadily increased in popularity. Mrs. MORRISON, of course, proved a host as well as a hostess in herself, and in the most auspicious manner renewed the triumphs of other days. The presence of so many visitors to the Fair accounted, perhaps, for the phenomenally large houses this week, but everything goes to indicate that, independently of all outside patronage, the enterprise is destined to be a truly Grand and permanent success.

The Royal Opera House has also been taxed to its utmost capacity to accommodate its patrons during the week just ended, and the character of the performances given has been no whit inferior to that of its Adelaide street rival. Mr. C. L. GRAVES, the Manager, made his appearance as a light comedian on Monday evening, and at once established for himself a substantial popularity. The star season at this House commences next Monday evening with Mrs. C. F. LANDER, one of the most handsome and accomplished actresses of the English stage, who is announced for three appearances in sterling historical plays.

A Vexed Question.

To the P-ST-M-ST-R GEN-R-L:

SIR—I find on the back of the post-cards "the address is only to be written on this side." I suppose, if a freak of fancy should incline me to print or to paint the address on the other side, I would not be amendable to the law?
CENSOR.



V.

R.

NOTICE.

Having received the above communication, and being ourselves somewhat doubtful of the meaning of the phrase under censure (as we never attended school when we were a boy); we beg, through the columns of GRIP, to offer as a premium to the student of the Normal School who sends us the best exegesis of the following sentences a copy of DAVIES' Grammar:

- (I.) Only the address to be written on this side.
- (II.) The address only to be written on this side.
- (III.) The address to be written only on this side.

P-ST-MAST-R G-N-R-L.

Press Personalities.

THE Dominion Editors' and Reporters' Association at its recent meeting very properly deprecated the amount of personality with which every petty scribbler crams his columns. Meanwhile, from the highest to the lowest, GRIP's contemporaries go on calling one another names as fast as they can invent them. To judge from a morning's perusal of exchanges the Dominion is one vast Eatanswill, inhabited by Potts and Shirks. GRIP has found out a way of softening down the difficulties which presented themselves to the Association, and hereby desires the attention of the Fourth Estate to an extract from an Act which he proposes to bring before the Association at its next meeting:

"Be it enacted—
"That such words as 'liar,' 'scoundrel,' and the like, when employed in editorials, be hereafter construed in a Press sense.
"That the 'Press' be deemed to signify the same as 'Parliamentary,' or 'Pickwickian,' for all purposes of this Act.
"That the use of such adjectives as 'contemptible,' 'crawling,' 'villanous,' and similar apparently strong terms be regarded as purely expletive, and done for the purpose of cking out 'copy.'
"That allegations of criminality on the part of rival editors be deemed as necessary figures of speech."
If these rules are strictly adhered to, and the Association use their endeavors to impress the profession with their spirit, the good which will ensue will be great. The limitation of the journalistic vocabulary which would ensue from stopping the use of strong expression would be avoided, and editorial "copy" would still retain its present force and elegance. The public would not mind, if, as GRIP has every reason to believe, they already regard newspaper accusations in the same light as the slanging matches of Messrs. MCKELLAR and RYKENT, and the only loss would be sustained by the legal profession, who are quite able to bear the deprivation of an occasional libel suit. And those editors who have characters to lose will retain them unspotted.

A Blow for a Blower.

THE dramatic critic of the London Free Press writes rapturously about the beauty and gifts of Miss ADA GRAY, who has been playing an engagement at the Opera House in that city. Amongst other pretty things he says:—

"Miss GRAY is a striking actress, and ought to fill the house to overflowing."
This can only be the language of experience—that of a young man badly "struck," and GRIP ventures to affirm that the Free Press sent at all events was regularly filled during the lady's stay.

Worse and Worse.

ONE of the latest despatches referring to the Brooklyn Scan. Mag. says:—

"TILTON yesterday received a call from his children, who found him reading to a friend his 400 foolscap page answer to BRECHER's statement."
Thus the misguided THEODORE goes on heaping up for himself all the elements of the worst of reputations. Not content with having unmasked before the world his own perfidy and untruthfulness he has revealed an unspeakable depth of cruelty in showing himself capable of thus putting a fellow creature to the barbarous torture of being read to death.