



The gravest beast is the Ass; the gravest bird is the Owl;  
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

#### Terms of Subscription.

Per annum in advance.....\$2.00  
Single copies......05

ADVERTISING TERMS ON APPLICATION.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK

BY THE

## Grip Printing & Publishing Co.

T. G. WILSON, Manager.

Offices:—201 and 203 Yonge Street.

All Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1892.



VERY one who says a word against Premier Thompson's appointment on the ground of his reactionary opinions, is of course denounced as a narrow-minded bigot and fanatic by the Tory and Ultramontane press. We have been deluged lately with repetitions of the platitude that a man's religion has nothing to do with his fitness for public office—as

though in these days any number of people worth considering held the opposite view. We repeat again that it is not Mr Thompson's religion that is objectionable—it is the general style and temperament of the man—his mediæval habit of thought—his stolid, cold-blooded selfishness—his imperviousness to all progressive, humanitarian, twentieth-century ideas. The man is a typical bourgeois—smug, self-satisfied, ostentatiously respectable, hypocritically devout, and with a heart as hard as the nether millstone. He has no sort of sympathy with the masses of the people, or any idea that any other remedies than repression and vindictive penalties are needed for social injustice. It is for these reasons, not because of his Catholicism, that GRIP dislikes Premier Thompson.

THOSE who are influenced by religious considerations in the matter are the Catholic supporters rather than the antagonists of the Government. Because the new Premier happens to be a Romanist, every journalist of that faith in the country is rushing to his support, regardless of every other consideration—of the qualifications of the man or the effect of his appointment on our public life. The fact that he owes allegiance to the hierarchy is quite enough to secure him the support of every Catholic in the country not prominently identified with Criticism. It is by no means an exceptional case, as any one of ordinary observation must be well aware. Let a politician be ever so objectionable either person-

ally or politically, provided he is a faithful son of the Church, he will always find champions in the Ultramontane press ready to accuse all assailing him of bigotry and fanaticism. We tell the Catholics plainly that this spirit of clannishness will not tend to increase the belief of other citizens in the desirability of affording them a controlling influence in public affairs.

JAY GOULD has passed over to the majority. His death excites less regret, if not more positive rejoicing, among the general public than would the taking off of any other person of equal celebrity. For something like a generation his name has been the synonym for conscienceless greed and acquisitiveness at the expense of the community. Of Gould and those who have enriched themselves in similar fashion, it may be said with especial significance that "the evil that they do lives after them," surviving in the form of their accumulated millions, which, instead of being a blessing to the world, become the instruments of further extortion and oppression. Men die, but corporations, unfortunately, live on. The death of a Gould, a Vanderbilt, or a Carnegie, practically makes no more difference to the despoiled and disinherited masses than does the succession of one despot to the throne of another, to the people of Russia or Turkey.



It is difficult to find anything good to say of the departed magnate, but it is only doing justice to remember that whatever he was, he became by consent of the majority of the American people. So long as men having political power in their hands consent to be slaves, the blame for unjust and oppressive conditions rests upon themselves rather than on those who shrewdly take advantage of their cowardice and apathy.

THE *Mail*, since it ceased to be a party organ, is undoubtedly the fairest-minded, most independent and progressive of our daily newspapers. It is the only one to which we can look for impartial and unbiased reports of political meetings and editorial comments on public occurrences, free from party or sectional prejudice. It retains one feature, however, which is singularly out of harmony with its general tone. We refer to the "Flaneur's" department in its otherwise excellent Saturday issue, the editor of which is a supercilious English Tory of the most narrow-minded and virulent type. For some inscrutable reason, this fellow has been permitted to air his ignorance and self-conceit by attacking promiscuously everything and everybody outside of the limits of the political, social and theological orthodoxy of fifty years ago. In last Saturday's issue he blackguards the ministers who have lately been preaching against the theatre and gambling, in a fashion that outrages all decency. It is not necessary to agree with the views of Rev. Drs. Starr and Galbraith in order to condemn "Flaneur's" course and malignant diatribe. But of course a person of his stamp does not regard "dissenters" as entitled to ordinary courtesy or even fair play.