

## LORD GREY.—THE TIMES.—MARE'S NESTS.

The nidificatory architecture of female horses, or in other words the cultivation of that curious class of structures popularly known as mare's nests, has of late furnished a wide field for the fertile imaginations of the red-hot politicians who congregate much in the City of Eggs. From a report in a late number of the London "Times," it appeared that Lord Grey, in his speech on the Navigation Laws, had made use of expressions with reference to this Colony, admitting of but one interpretation—conveying, in fact, that as the people here have long been preparing for the process of "going upon their own hook," the sooner they accomplish that object the better, for all parties concerned. Straightway the watchers "took up the wondrous tale;" and the immediate impeachment of Lord Grey, was about the mildest measure suggested by the justly-incensed but rather-hastily-judging loyalists. Justly-incensed indeed, had the statesman been absolutely convicted of thus coolly hinting at the feasibility of leaving them to their own resources "at an early day." But premature, nevertheless, in their conclusions, inasmuch as the cry was got up solely on the strength of the "Times" report, and without either taking into consideration that fallibility which is a common attribute of men and of reporters, or making such diligent research amongst the contemporary journals, as might establish or falsify, beyond the fear of contradiction, the fact of a British Statesman having so far forgotten himself, as to give utterance in a British House of Commons, to the expressions in question. In the midst of the outcry, comes a "still small voice," across the Atlantic, in the shape of a "private letter" from Lord Grey!—(My Lord,—Punch wishes you would write him a "private letter;" you may rely upon the strictest secrecy—he would laugh over it in deep retirement, and "burn it when read.")—And the confidential dispatch of the Noble Colonial Secretary, utterly denies the imputation—the sentiments uttered by him, were "exactly the reverse" of those attributed to him by the "Times." The reporter, in fact, had taken an inverted view of the affair, morally standing on his head as a relaxation from his graver duties; and the result was, that the matter had to be set right before the world in general, by means of a "private letter" from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor General. We certainly, from the first, suspected the authenticity of the attributed expressions, we could not "realise" the possibility of the thing, and positively felt a sensation of relief, at the assurance contained in Col. Bruce's letter, which appeared in the "Herald" of Wednesday. Nevertheless, we would rather have seen the contradiction in the columns of the "Times" itself—we hope it has appeared in that paper of a subsequent date, and this, without impeaching in the slightest degree, the statement contained in the letter of denial, but solely from a strong objection to seeing public business transacted through the medium of "private letters." Returning, however, to the popular amusement of mare's nesting, let us deprecate the practice as one calculated to make matters look worse than they really are. A keen writer has remarked, that "warblers verging upon antiquity, are not liable to be imposed upon with the external integuments of sarinaceous grains," clearly meaning to convey, that old birds cannot be caught with chaff; and Punch, perceiving with his aquiline glance, that many trains of that most unsubstantial delusion are cunningly laid upon the paths of politics, treads with great caution the trap-laid and tortuous alleys of that region of mist. Let us polish the lenses in the telescope of loyalty, ere we sweep the horizon with the disc. The poet sings, that "a heart of small specific gravity, combined with nether integuments of a gauze-like texture, materially tends to facilitate one's passage through this valley of tears;" and thus Punch feels confident, that in his present frame of mind; and a pair of Russian ducks, he can climb manfully to the mast-head of hope, therefrom to keep a bright look-out for "better days."

## SUGGESTIVE OF BLOOD-LETTING.

The late body-guard of glorious memory, was under the command of Doctor Tache, and the new Mounted Police are to be dra-gooned by a Doctor Fortier. Might they not safely, as well as effectively, be armed with lancets, and have their pistols loaded with Holloway's Pills?

## A WARLIKE OBSERVATION.

A venerable friend of Punch, it strikes him it was the Duke of Wellington, when they were discussing the troubles of Canada over a bottle of Canadian whiskey, which inspired them with a correct view of the real state of affairs; observed, "that in time of peace we should always be prepared for war." Punch's own friend the Duke must write for the *Courier*, and always be enforcing his own maxim. The thousands of men that are daily raised in that paper fully armed and equipped; and amply munitioned and prepared for "all the pomp and circumstance of glorious war," has tended materially to affect the credit of the province. Baring & Brothers have sent us a communication, but as it had no bearing on the subject, we shall not allude to it at greater length; but it contained sufficient to convince us that so long as the Duke of Wellington speaks his sentiments through the columns of the *Courier*; so long will debentures be uneasy; fearing an onslaught on the portals of the government chest; so long will they be without rest: so long will they be a terror to their holders; and fall at last into a decline so rapid that not even "Wistar's balsam of wild-cherry," or "Hinck's balsam of wild-geese" will ever recover them from it.

We implore the Duke to have pity on the infants of Montreal, who are now frightened to bed by the cry that the army of the *Courier* is coming. We beseech him for the sake of the repose of our grandmother not daily to pass in review those countless hordes of armed barbarians, now harmlessly cradled in his vivid imagination, but which at any moment, Minerva like may rise, and scatter desolation and ruin over the apple-stalls and washing-tubs of this devoted city. He should remember that in the rivalry of races he may have to run and be distanced: for though the swiftest Policeman may be outstripped: and the Duke well knows they are good at a race, especially when the race is Canadian, yet he should remember "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong."

If he has no pity on the Policemen against whom these paper squadrons are raised: let him at least have pity on the Policemen's coats: those magnificent uniforms glorying in the cut of "Moss;" and which when "Moss" receives the amount of his contract will become the property of his Royal Mistress. Should these garments be defaced, the loss will be irreparable, the Policemen may be replaced, the coats never. Let the Duke ponder well on these matters, let him raise no more bug-bears for Punch to demolish.

## BAR AND BUNKUM.

Punch has looked over the columns of the Montreal papers, for the last half century, and discovers that one hundred and thirty-three thousand, one hundred and seventy-eight gentlemen have in that period, been admitted to the bar; and in every case they were examined on their knowledge of credit, on the laws of debts and creditor, which is what Punch understands by the stereotyped phrases, "passed a creditable examination." There is no doubt all these students were able to ~~add~~ give credit, but to be creditable, you must be able to get it.

Punch presumes the tenor of the examination submitted to, is to ascertain the amount of debts contracted during the course of study usually undergone in Montreal, consisting of fishing excursions, Bachelors Balls, Notre Dame Street Parades, cigar smoking, horse racing, brandy imbibing, &c. &c. &c. The examiners, of course, judge from their own experience and if greatly indebted, of course the student passes with a great deal of credit.

## FROM OUR OWN NAUTICAL CONTRIBUTOR.

Why is the Governor General like a ship fouling another, by the bowsprit when at anchor?

Because he is likely to thwart a Flaw (e)as.

Why do the various addresses to His Excellency, resemble Bankrupts and their estates?

Because they come from people who are in a bad way and are published in the Gazette.