



The greatest beast is the Ass; the greatest bird is the Owl;
The greatest fish is the Oyster; the greatest man is the Scot.

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TORONTO, SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1892.

COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



POLITICAL ELOCUTION. — The Young Liberals of Hamilton had a banquet a few evenings ago, by way of celebrating the results of the bye-elections, or something of that sort, and amongst the speakers invited from Ottawa was Mr. Fraser of New Glasgow. This gentleman enjoys the distinction of being the biggest man in Parliament physically, and there are not many his superior in any other respect. GRIP has had occasion in the past to honor Fraser as one of the Radical team of the Opposi-

tion, his mate in harness being Gilmore of New Brunswick. At the banquet in question the big man made a speech worthy of himself, and from the way in which it was received it appeared to be the very sort of speech that is in demand at the present time. Fraser is a free trader straight out, without any ifs, buts, or other qualifications, and he spoke accordingly. He denounced not merely the N.P., but the whole body of protective "philosophy" as the sophisticated humbug it is, and as only a man who really understands political economy can do. Messrs. Laurier and Cartwright should have been there to hear, and especially to note the enthusiasm with which the Free Trade sentiment was received. These gentlemen know as well as Mr. Fraser that what Canada wants above all else just now is free trade with the world and direct taxation, but they are afraid to speak out. Indeed, they haven't yet ceased encouraging the miserable superstition that direct taxation is something only to be mentioned as a last desperate alternative. "The country isn't ripe for such an advance," they say or think. Then it is their special business as leaders of a Reform party to let in the sunlight of truth to ripen it. Of one thing they may be sure: so long as they maintain their present half-hearted, apologetic attitude on the question of free trade, so long will they remain in the chilly shades

of opposition. It would do them a world of good to take some lessons in political elocution from Professor Fraser.

FOSTER'S BOSS.—The old country papers are naturally anxious to know what is the exact significance of Mr. Foster's allusion, in the peroration of his Budget speech, to "showing favors to those who show favors to us." Coming from the fiscal mouthpiece of so loyal a Government, it would be natural for these enquirers to conclude that it meant an early reduction of duties on British exports to Canada. But as yet the dark hint has been left as it was first thrown out, vague and impalpable. For the benefit of John Bull we may explain that Mr. Foster isn't quite in a position to say whether he meant a reduction of duties, or Free Trade, or nothing at all. It will be necessary for him first to find out what his boss, the Red Parlor, thinks about it.



HE notion of patriotism which appears to be held by Dr. Willoughby, M.P., and a good many other people in this country is somewhat commercial.

It goes on the principle that every exhibition of patriotic spirit ought to be paid for in money or money's worth. Thus we find this hon. gentleman and his friends agitating for the payment at this late day, of the veterans of 1837; and it will be remembered as a more modern

instance of the same thing, that the volunteers were paid in cash and titular honors for doing their duty as soldiers at the time of the Riel rebellion. To be sure in this case both cash and knighthoods went to Gen. Middleton, who did little, and Minister of Militia Caron, who did nothing, but these brave warriors were, of course, merely regarded as representing the loyal forces. We look upon the principle referred to as vicious. Its tendency is to degrade the patriotic impulse into a sordid matter of business. The veterans of '37 did their simple duty to the country as they understood it at the time, and the thought of being paid for their services probably never occurred to them. If any of the old fellows are now suffering poverty they ought to be relieved by a popular subscription in their behalf. It is one thing to indemnify citizens for positive losses sustained in a rebellion or other national upheaval; it is quite another to reward patriotism with money.

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SIR JOHN THOMPSON, the essential salt of the Government, proclaimed from the hustings not long ago that if any man had charges of wrong-doing to make against any member of the House or the Ministry, he (Sir John) would make it his special business to see that a fair and thorough investigation would be guaranteed. Mr. Edgar, M.P. for West Ontario, seems to have had confidence in this proclamation, and accordingly the