

THE GRUMBLER.

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THE GRUMBLER.

"If there's a hole in a' your coat
I reddy you tent it;
A chiel's a'wung you talking, eeter,
And, faith, he'll pu't it."

SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1859.

THE PROVINCIAL SPOUTING APPARATUS—No. V.

I.—THE TITLE "HONORABLE."

"Honor but an empty bubble."—*Dryden.*

The Hon. Malcolm Macpup has been delivered of a huge device for saving time and inferring the country on political matters. He moved on Wednesday last for an address to His Excellency, of course "an 'unsole address," as Uriah Heep would say), praying that no one should dare to style himself "Honorable" who did not draw £1200 from the treasury to keep up the title. Now if we were a Clear Grit we should say that this was a base attack upon the late government; and if we were the clearest of Grits we might insinuate that backstairs' influence had been at work and that His Excellency had actually determined that none should be styled "Honorable" whom he did not believe so.

We are neither green nor so brown as to bite our thumb at His Excellency in that savage fashion; but we really put it to the member for Lambton whether he might not serve every purpose by other methods. It is a maxim of law to give the blackest criminal the benefit of a doubt, and instead of denying the title of honorable to all but 23 of their number, we hope to see the day when they shall be "all, all honorable men" even including the member for Leeds and Grenville. If, however, the motion had passed we should have really imagined the title to be a euphemism applied ironically to Sidney Smith and some of his "onabnt" colleagues (*laetus a non luendo*).

The two reasons assigned by Lambton's spokesman were ludicrous enough. 1st. The time consumed in repeating the word "honorable" would be saved.

Now there is really some show of reason in this. Public opinion assigns great value to time; Franklin said that it was money, and we are sure most legislators share the opinion, inasmuch as every one tries to monopolize as large a share as possible to his own use. Now, if Mr. Cameron were really in earnest, he would do something more than save the time consumed in the utterance of 23 words about twice a week. Suppose an appropriate nickname were given to each member; for instance "Coon" might stand for Honorable M. Cameron (one syllable for ten); "Spoon" for Oglo R. Gowan, and

"Loon" for Thomas Ferguson." In this way not only economy in time but a pleasing and rhythmical division list would result.

The other objection was that persons at the bar might know that the "Honorable" were all members of the Government. This we think puorite and if the objection had any foundation the difficulty might easily be got rid of by biading a fillet of red tape about the brows of each of the Cabinet ministers, attaching bands of parchment to their cravats, and putting a skull cap of blue books on their heads and then there would be no mistaking the victims offered on the altar of circumlocution. We think, therefore, that the whole device shows a want of invention in the legislator, and was properly rejected. By the bye we should give Mr. Robinson the credit of having made a neat and sensible speech against this bunkum motion.

II.—FOUR DOLLARS OR SIX.

For what is worth in any thing
But so much money as 'twill bring.

[*Udubras.*

We cannot but think that in spite of his bland smile and courteous address, Major Campbell must be a horrid revolutionist at heart. The House had been quiet for a week till the Major imprudently cast a bone of contention on the floor of the House. Just think of the monstrous proposition;—to reduce members' pay from six to four dollars per diem! The whole House was in arms; the craft was in danger, and a vigorous stroke had to be struck at such a frightful proposition. Of course Gowan and Canehon opposed it; that was to be expected, and we are sure that we should have done the same had we been there. It was indeed a monstrous breach of privilege or at least an attack on the privileges of the breeches pocket, and it was properly voted down.

Just imagine Mr. Rymal sacrificing himself on the altar of patriotism for four dollars a day—ridiculous. Or Mr. Dufresno who assessed his value at eight, shouting "hear, hear" the whole session for half the money. The motion was absurd. Why not adopt a different mode of retrenchment. Place a taxation on speaking. Say \$1½ an hour (not a respectable fraction of the actual cost) for every speech. Gowan and Brown and Picho would by this means deposit quite a respectable sum into the treasury at the end of the session; while "mute inglorious" Wright and Aikins would be well rewarded for their forbearance.

But at one fell stroke to cut \$2 a day from the pay of these inoffensive and unobtrusive men would have been cruel in the extreme.

No wonder that the members were indignant. No wonder that unwonted feeling and vigour was displayed in speaking. They usually talk about their country's interests, they only grow warm when advocating their own.

We have of late become so enamoured of the style of *Old Double's* leading articles that we are induced to transfer the following to our own columns.

From the Colonist and Atlas, February the oney-outh.

INFANOUS | HORRIBLE | AND ATROCIOUS CONSPIRACY!!!

Good heavens! will it be believed by our readers that even that false hearted hypocrite Geo. Brown, could be driven by reckless ambition and desperation, to accuse Mr. John A. Macdonald of a crime—a base foul crime—which he and his ally McGee really committed themselves?

Impossible! Incredible! our readers out of Canada will exclaim—Are you serious?—the great Cham of Tartary will ask indignantly—Can such villany exist?—the Mogul of the North Pole will exclaim—is such horrible treason possible?—the President of the Moon will thunder—Yes! in all fearful sorrow, we reply—it is possible—we are serious. Would that we could add that we are surprised at this latest exhibition of villainous desperation. But we cannot. McGee the arch Traitor—the impregnation of everything that is detestable and blood-thirsty—McGee the ferocious tiger—the reckless fire-brand, it is beyond denial—has been for months past deeply engaged in secret and treasonable correspondence with every ancient beldame in this great country. Countless are the pop-gun clubs and lollipop lodges he has established for the purpose of inaugurating a reign of rapine, terror and blood. Behold the Robespierre of Canada! Behold his cringing tool, Brown, gloating with him over the horrible and detestable first fruits of his labour. Murder and bloodshed—'tis for this they manoeuvre. But—ah! traitors we have you on the hip! Though the O'Flannigans, the O'Lees, the O'Stocks and the O'Derricks, have aided and abetted you in your villany, we warn you that it shall be unmasked. We tell you that the crime which you basely charge upon another was committed by yourselves. Yes! a complicated tale of treachery and tiger-like ferocity shall be brought to light, and whisks—objects of detestation to the world—you are groaning under your merited punishment, Heaven! shall protect and smile upon the basely maligned—the innocent.

Another "Confidence" Vote.

—Mr. Foley gave notice of his intention to move that Mr. Brown be allowed to occupy the vacant seat to the east of the Attorney General West. We understand that the ministry will oppose the motion and make the vote one of want of confidence, on the ground that Mr. Brown occasions them bother enough when at a distance, and they decidedly object to affording him any closer opportunity for prying into their affairs.