

GRIP.

EDITED BY MR. BARNABY RUDOR.

The grabeſt Beaſt is the Jaſ; the grabeſt Bird is the Owl;
The grabeſt Fiſh is the Ogaſter; the grabeſt Man is the Fool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1875.

Answers to Correspondents.

ADMIRER, MONTREAL.—Your communication is too personal. GRIP is never personal, as you must have observed.

LITTLE WANZER.—If the lock stitch is good for sewing a hem, we don't think it would be improper to call it a hemlock stitch. A-hem!

From Our Box.

"Our Boys" is one of those plays which make no display of heroic action nor loftiness of sentiment, but are at the same time free from sensation and mawkish sentimentality. Its sparkling dialogue, full of humour, lively if not particularly keen, and its natural incident are a pleasing contrast to the blood-and-thunder melodramas which the exigencies of a 'provincial' theatre too often bring upon the stage. By the acquisition of Mr. SPACKMAN, Mrs. MORRISON'S Company has gained strength. His sense of humour, his versatility, and above all his ability to speak English, make Mr. SPACKMAN welcome to audiences somewhat tired of the American accent, and American actors. His 'Old Middlewick' was a most refreshing piece of comedy, and the mainstay of the play. In a play where the aim is to depict the manners of the refined society of to-day, it is only necessary that the young ladies should be unconstrained, animated and—lady-like. It is not too much to say that these requirements were fulfilled by the ladies who played the parts of Violet and Mary respectively. Mrs. MARLOWE, who is always at home in low comedy, made a capital Melinda, one of those highly entertaining but impossible maids-of-all-work, who, in the imagination of play-wrights, bloom in the dingy precincts of lodging-houses. Miss CARR gave general satisfaction in the character of the Maiden Aunt. She abstained almost entirely from the mannerisms which often mar her performances. Mr. GRISMER as Young Middlewick was lively and natural enough, and struggled bravely with the peculiarities of accent which make it hard for an American to represent an English gentleman. An English gentleman moreover would not have lengthened out the third act unnecessarily by pronouncing the *o* in *tempora* long. Mr. FARWELL is more true to nature as a heavy villain than an English baronet.—Mr. SAMBROOK often finds himself in positions which no doubt he would avoid had he the power to choose. It is only just to say that in such positions Mr. SAMBROOK does his best, and no man can do more. "Our Boys" in the gallery on Saturday afternoon evinced a desire to assist "Our Boys" on the stage with suggestions, which, though friendly, were superfluous. Whistling which would send a shudder through the frame of a mummy, is of course, by prescriptive right, permissible, and when it celebrates the triumph of virtue, or rewards the expression of a soul-stirring sentiment, it is even laudable. But when the gods indulge in a running fire of comments, and vain repetitions of what is said on the stage, they transgress the bounds of decency, and should be suppressed.

Twin Pictures.

Drawn with a Raven's quill by our special artist.

THE HON. OLIVER SLOWGO.

The Hon. OLIVER SLOWGO is the type of a christian politician of the time serving class. He quitted politics for the Bench, and his translation was viewed by all as a fitting tribute to a man whose incapable honesty unfitted him for political intrigue. He quitted the Bench for politics, that he might become a warning to all men, that "*Facilis decensus Avernis, sed revocare gradum, hic labor hoc opus est.*" His late political career has been an injudicious combination of hesitation and rashness. He hesitates where he should be rash, and is rash where he should hesitate. As a judge, conscientiousness and self respect rendered him stable, as a politician he has no anchorage. Were his Dictator, his Cabinet Councillor, and his '*placens uxor*,' to vanish at one fell swoop, he would not know enough to go in when it rained. Accustomed to household homage, he values himself accordingly. Naturally unostentatious, were not greatness thrust upon him, he would prefer competence and contentment therewith, to the pomps and vanities of public life. The "heathen G. B." is his evil spirit, and forces him to assume a role he is little fitted to undertake, by tickling his vanity and practising upon his weaknesses. Endowed with a natural reluctance to publicity, and with a back aching with the burden of party sins, he tries to think he likes it,

while his soul revolts at his slavery, and longs to be at rest. In manners he is urbane and undignified. In speech he is petulant and platitudinarianous. In person he is puffy, prim, and pompous. He wears hats a shade too large for him, and swathes himself in black that ill becomes him. His character, appearance, and disposition, is that of the hero of the 'Pickwick papers.' He has a capacity and appreciation for humor; which he carefully represses lest he should compromise himself.

THE HON. MAT. INCONSISTENT.

The Hon. MAT. INCONSISTENT is a sample of a good man spoiled by party politics. Entering the political arena with a bundle of cut and dry principles, he has sacrificed them all in the interests of party, but prates of them with lingering fondness as though he were still their possessor. He is a true Conservative, since he opposes all innovation, however beneficial. Honesty is his great forte. Because he is not a burglar or a highwayman, he assumes that he is honest. Yet he scruples not to say that which he does not believe, and supports his party in actions of very doubtful integrity, while from his standpoint of undeviating honesty he applies the lash of a caustic, and sometimes epigrammatic tongue, to the derelictions of his enemies. In speech he is strident, pedantic and diffuse. In manners he is unsocial and forbidding, concealing under a cynical crust an amiable disposition. His delight is to gaze with folded arms upon the follies of his fellow mortals, and to congratulate himself that he is not as other men. He laughs at bitter jests, and rolls his tongue round a morsel of biting sarcasm as though he enjoyed it, which he does not. As a minister he was painstaking and industrious, and the ingratitude of assertions to the contrary has embittered his personal feeling. He longs for the return of the Family Compact, and their gentlemanly despotisms. He is weakly jealous of his reputation, or the shreds of it, and considers himself soiled in his Conservative purity, by his enforced contact with an errant politician, whom while using, he abhors. Obstinacy he considers firmness; prejudice, principle; and dogmatism logic. He is therefore dangerous as a colleague or an enemy. Personally he is distinguished by a goatee and great angularity. His attitudes remind one of the late CAXON KINGSLEY. In dress he is studiously negligent.

At the Speaker's Elbow.

Friday, Nov. 26.

Perched at Mr. Speaker's elbow as befitted my no-party character, I was ready to give the assembled wisdom of Ontario a hearing.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Dr. WINDFIELD moved the adoption of the Address. The motion was mechanical, he having wound himself up for the occasion. The mechanism of his speech, however, was well arranged. Mr. FERRIS seconded the motion. This gentleman is a great thinker. He said—"I think, Mr. Speaker;" and again, "I do think," and again, "Mr. Speaker, I think." The observations fell with telling effect upon the House, but he rather weakened the impression made by repeating them too frequently. If he "thinks" audibly throughout the session, he will bore the House.

The motion having been duly made and seconded, the com-motion began. The principle involved in the motion before the House, as Mr. Speaker was good enough to inform me, was whether or not there was anything in the Address. Hon. Mr. MACDOUGALL thought not. He said he hated to kick against nothing—it strained him so. He must have strained himself considerably, for he kicked savagely against the Government policy. Various other members also did their best to strain themselves.

Incidentally, the Premier offered "explanations" in regard to the retirement of Hon. ARCHIE MCKELLAR. That gentleman's friends had come to the conclusion that the "honest yeoman" ought to withdraw from public life. He must be blessed with some very sensible friends. The Hon. the Premier also stated that the gentleman in question would have retired sooner had a vacancy offered in a Lunatic Asylum. Failing that, he had accepted a shrievalty. His experience in connection with the Central Prison peculiarly fitted him for dealing with the criminal classes.

Hon. Mr. FRASER astonished the House with an exhibition of the celebrated tomahawk trick. It consists of slinging that weapon at an opponent in the most reckless manner, but without harming a hair of his head. He showed himself quite an adept in the art.

Mr. LAUDER pitched into Mr. FRASER with all that absence of circumlocution for which he is distinguished. He said—"Let him (FRASER) make a few more of those speeches, let him just make a few more of them, and, if he makes a few more of them, Mr. Speaker, let him dissolve the House, let him dissolve the House, I say, and (speaking with slow deliberation) if—he—dissolves—the—House—Mr. Speaker, he will then see, he will then see Sir (this with great energy), he will then see where his majority is." To this gentleman has been assigned the duty of uttering the responses for the Opposition side of the House.—Accordingly, the "hear, hear" of his stentorian voice is continually heard resounding through the Legislative Hall. It is said he sought the post in order to let the Government know that he was "there, there."

There were several characteristic speeches made. I would have re-