

THE GRUMBLER.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1858.

NO. 11.

THE GRUMBLER.

"If there's a hole in 'our coats
I rede you tent it;
A chiel's among you taking notes,
And, faith, he'll rent it."

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1858.

PROVINCIAL SPOUTING APPARATUS.—No. XI.

I. A QUESTION OF VERACITY.

The Hon. Mr. Loranger made a foolish braggadocio speech in French last week, and was naturally astonished at seeing it rendered in English, for Upper Canadians next day. He, therefore, rose to a question of privilege, and backed out in a very shabby way, by denying the correctness of the report. We are assured, however, that several French members were perfectly persuaded of its substantial truth; and even if this evidence were wanting, the straightforward statement of Mr. Penny carries truth on the face of it. The Provincial Secretary asked why his word was not to be taken in preference to the reporter's? Perhaps the hon. gentleman was once to school, and will recollect a Roman maxim, endorsed by Cicero,—that when conflicting statements were made in a court of law, the judges should enquire *qui bono*, for whose benefit it was to commit the crime; now, who was interested in this matter, Mr. Loranger or the reporter? The answer to this will supply the solution to the query. Mr. Loranger, like Mr. Speaker, seems bent on flinging indignity on these faithful servants of the public, who weary themselves out in the unappreciated task of writing in good plain English, the silly, ungrammatical twaddle of the House. What, in the name of common sense, would they do without them? Commit suicide in their own defence we suppose.

II. A NEW LIGHT.

The hon. pomposity who represents the County of Shefford, has made an important discovery, which does credit to his self-sufficiency. "He (Mr. Drummond) believed that the day would come when posterity would look upon our reverence for trial by jury, as we regard our ancestors' attachment to trial by ordeal." Who says Drummond is presumptuous? It may be perfectly true that the institution he reviles has been the admiration of the English race ever since Alfred; it may be true that every writer on the laws of England, has lauded it as the palladium of British liberty; it has been reserved for the great Drummond to detect their error, and place this absurd institution in its proper position. Hide your diminished heads, shades of Coke, Blackstone, Burke, Erskine and McIntosh, you are but a herd of empty enthusiasts; and bow in shame before the mighty luminary of Shefford. You never heard of him? It may be true, and more's the pity; a great prophet is always treated Cassandra fashion

in his own country; posterity will look back with amazement on the heartless manner in which this modest, unassuming genius has been suffered to pine away, unnoticed by the crowd, and un-nourished by the sweets of place and power. It's the way of the world.

III. SPEAKING AGAINST TIME.

One of those little freaks which our legislature is in the habit of practising, at least once every session, was indulged in on Tuesday night. The Opposition feeling aggrieved at a motion of the Attorney General's, came to the sage conclusion of speaking all night; so the House sat from 7½ p.m. on Tuesday, till 6 p.m. on Wednesday,—22½ hours without adjournment. An immense amount of unmitigated nonsense was talked, and an exceedingly foul atmosphere generated, but beyond this no advantage was gained. At about 4 a.m. an enlivening concert came off which displayed to great advantage the vocal powers of some of the members; we missed, however, the contralto of Mr. Loranger, and the basso profundo of Mr. Fergusson, which were very much required. At about nine a.m. what remained of the honorable House, was in a very dilapidated condition.—Mr. MacKenzie was of course perfectly himself, and relieved the proceedings very creditably; Mr. J. A. McDonald looked like—we suppose it would be libelous to say it,—well, he looked extremely done up; Mr. Cartier resembled a half-drowned rat; but Mr. Speaker's physical powers, which are exceedingly well developed, sustained him through it all. At about one o'clock, Mr. Galt relieved the Speaker, and we really pitied the hon. gentleman, whose efforts to please everybody were of course vain. Mr. Speaker's decisions, in which May was completely burked (Bourked?) were appealed against twice, and when collected, as they doubtless will be, when the country is relieved of his services, will form a noble appendix to Story on Conflicting Laws.

IV. DESCENT OF THE PIRATE.

The brazen gentleman from North Leeds made his appearance on Tuesday evening, at the head of a band of music, and entered the House in a sort of Cromwellian style, a perfect counterpart to the Athenian Cleon. A more consummate demagogue never passed the threshold of any Legislative body; we verily believe that his vanity is so strong, and his conscience so weak, that he would commit any offence, if he could only gain the cheers of six empty fools. He has already intruded himself on the House six times since he took his seat, and if he goes on at this rate, the House will have as great contempt for him as we have before the end of next week. We must not forget, however, that a glib tongue and a plentiful lack of principle and modesty, are the only passports to success in this Canada; and, therefore, we should not be surprised to see Gowan in the Government before the end of the Session.

Foggysm gone mad.

—The Hon. Mr. Laterriere opposed the McLean Divorce Bill because it was written "whom God hath joined let no man put asunder;" so we suppose the injured husband is to be bound to his faithless spouse for life, because she had no right to break the compact. Doubtless, the hon. member will repeal the laws against thieving, because it is written "Thou shalt not steal."

Alarming Insurrection.

—The watch-makers of this city hearing that Her Majesty's loyal opposition were "speaking against time," deeming their craft to be in danger immediately rebelled; but were appeased on being informed that no reflections on clocks or watches were intended.

Horrible.

—The Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet, in his wishy-washy reply to the admirable speech of Col. Prince on Tuesday last, accused his opponent of wishing "to do away with" the Solicitor General, the Minister of Agricultural, and all the Cabinet. What a horrible idea! We wonder whether the Colonel intends to poison them or cut their innocent throats at midnight in the Rossin House; will not the orate Vankoughnet give us some idea of his *modus operandi* in this sanguinary design? We are told that the weevilphobian meant the offices of these worthies and not their sacred persons; but this cannot be, for Vankoughnet always says what he means, and sometimes a great deal more.

Inducements to Incendiaries.

—The City Fire Coroner will give one dollar reward to any careless servant girl, or other party, who will deposit live coals in any barrel, or any wood-shed or other wooden building, so as to cause such barrel, &c., to take fire; provided, always, that a reasonable excuse be afforded for holding an inquest on such barrel, wood-shed, or other wooden building so set on fire.

A like reward will be given to any one who may succeed in setting any flue or chimney in a blaze, so that an inquest be held to inquire into the cause of such flue or chimney so blazing as aforesaid.

The Fire Coroner will also give a reward of one dollar to any night-watch, policeman, or other party, who shall make holes in any of the gas pipes, leading to the street lamps, and ignite the gas as it makes it escape, so that the lamp-post be scorched or burned, or in any way injured by such fire, upon their giving him immediate notice thereof.

The Fire Coroner, to show his estimation of the jurors who sit on such inquests on such barrel, or on such woodshed, or other wooden building, or on such chimney or lamp-post will at each such inquest, give fifty cents to be spent in liquor by such jury, and will take a drink himself.