



The gravest beast is the Gnu; the gravest bird is the Owl;  
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1892.

### GRIP'S HUMOR COMPETITION.

We, the judges in the Humor Competition, which closed on the 1st inst., have carefully examined the numerous manuscripts sent in in accordance with the rules governing the contest. We have found considerable difficulty in reaching a decision on account of the number of contributions of a high standard of excellence submitted to us, there being a great many meritorious articles in prose and verse which appeared to us little, if at all, inferior to those selected. Considered from the standpoints of intrinsic merit, suitability and general interest, however, we find the following on the whole the best articles submitted, and award the prizes as follows:

1. "Lucky Jim" John West.
2. "Jamesie." T. Cockburn, 28 Division St., Toronto.
3. "Foreign Missionary Meeting." F. A. Belcher, 41 Scott St., Toronto.

The name of "John West" signed to the contribution receiving the first prize is confessedly a pen name, the author stating that he did not wish his name and address given. Unless he is willing to permit their publication, as evidence of our good faith with the public, we shall be reluctantly obliged to pass over his contribution, advance the other prize winners to the first and second places respectively, and award the third prize to one of the other contributors.

J. W. BENGOUGH,  
PHILLIPS THOMPSON,  
J. V. WRIGHT.

GRIP OFFICE, March 10, 1892.

### COMMENTS ON THE CARTOONS.



**BANISHED.** — The Mercier forces were routed horse, foot and artillery, in the Provincial elections on the 8th. It was a perfect Waterloo — "rider and horse, friend foe, in one red burial blent." The Lieutenant-Governor's action in dismissing the Ministry was gloriously vindicated, and boodlesism was visited with something like adequate punishment. Quebec, and more especially the Liberals of Quebec, deserves the thanks and praise of Canada. For, unless the mem-

bers of Mercier's own party had revolted, no such majority could have been given to the new Government. The result will have the effect of wiping out some of our country's disgrace, but we cannot expect to stand really well with the respectable world so long as our virtue remains lop-sided. The Grit boodlers of Quebec have been settled with, but as yet the Tory boodlers at Ottawa have gone unwhipped of justice. Had a similar procedure been followed — had the Gov.-General insisted on an impartial investigation into the charges against Langevin, Chapleau, Caron, Haggart, *et al* — the result might have been as gratifying as that in Quebec has been.

But these Ministers have all escaped on quibbles and technicalities so far, and the chances for justice are growing sligher every day. There certainly appear to be two distinct codes of morals recognized in Canada, one for Grits and another for Tories. This is, no doubt, highly convenient for crooked members of the latter organization, but it is bad for the country.

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL." — Now that the Government has carried most of the bye-elections in Ontario, and has seen their party friends safely seated in Quebec with a majority as great as avarice itself could ask, a few moments might be found in which to do something for the Dominion. The pleasant fiction that the county is prosperous may do well enough for the hustings, where speakers are surrounded by crowds who do more cheering than thinking, but there is no sense in living in such a fool's paradise now that the polls have closed. The sooner our responsible statesmen settle down to a serious consideration of the situation, the better it will be for themselves. This little matter seems to have been overlooked up to the present.

**A GREAT LIGHT.** — The open letter to Mr. Laurier, by John Crerar, Q.C., of Hamilton, has attracted wide notice. It has been reprinted in many of the leading papers, and has formed a topic of earnest discussion from end to end of the Dominion. We are all anxiously awaiting Mr. Laurier's reply. Meanwhile, GRIP has no hesitation in stating his belief that the advice given is good from the point of view of political economy — free trade and direct taxation would be vastly better for the people of Canada than the protective policy. Mr. Laurier will, of course, have to consider party exigencies in the matter, but we cannot imagine that his prospects of getting into office would be any poorer for the adoption of the proposed slogan. They might, on the contrary, be improved, for the people generally show themselves partial to leaders who are bold and aggressive. At all events, there is no man in the Grit party who has a better right to give his advice and have it respectfully considered than the able Q.C. who has just spoken.



**W**ELL, now that Mercier is settled for good and all, the interesting question arises, what's the next move on the Quebec checker-board? Some inward monitor seems to rise up and whisper, "a raid on the Dominion treasury to save the Province from bankruptcy." Then another interesting question arises, Where is Mr. Abbott going to get the funds supposing him willing to listen to such an application? We have about exhausted our tax-paying strength, and our borrowing ability. It will require cool-headed statesmanship to work us out of our present difficulties, and if, instead of this, the Government displays recklessness in undertaking new financial obligations, we may have to use the old flag as an auction sign some of these days.

**A**ND yet something will have to be done for Quebec. There does not seem to be any escape from that. And who is there to do it excepting Quebec's sister Provinces as represented in the Federal Administration? Some plan must be devised by which the pressing needs