

GRIP.

EDITED BY MR. BARNABY RUDGE.

The greatest Beast is the Ass; the greatest Bird is the Owl;
The greatest Fish is the Oyster; the greatest Man is the Fool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 1876.

From Our Box.

THE GRAND.—This week we have been treated to the series of plays which a year ago were interpreted for us by the genius of Miss NEILSON. The impressions she left on our minds we do not care to have effaced, and it was with some dread that we saw Miss AGNES BOOTH. To compare her with Miss NEILSON would be perhaps unfair. Next to her, she is beyond a doubt the best actress Toronto has seen—has a good though somewhat massive appearance, a graceful carriage, and a fine clear voice, free from the usual American defects. But like many American actresses she pronounces her words too precisely. Last night she appeared as *Pauline* in the *Lady of Lyons*. She is too self-restrained to portray thoroughly well the extravagance of passion. *Pauline* is to our mind effective only in the hands of an actress capable of looking love with the snpernal power of Miss NEILSON. Mr. GRISMER acted the part of *Cloude* with his usual amiability. He has too much of the air of an excellent member of the Y.M.C.A. He is not a master of "terce an l quart", Mr. SPACKMAN to the contrary notwithstanding, and the fencing was rather mild. He fetches sighs—as heavy sighs as any man of his size we know, but he is too liberal of them. However, he does his level best,

"And when good will is show'd, though 't come too short,
The actor may plead pardon."

The remaining parts were fairly filled. Mr. SPACKMAN, as old *Colonel Dumas*, the French officer, was very good. Miss BOOTH will appear to-night as *Julie*. She deserves a good house. On Friday night she will appear as *Constance* with Mr. BOOTH as *King John*. As this magnificent drama has never been played here before, we look forward to it as a great treat. In portraying the maternal sorrows of *Constance*, Miss BOOTH is said to be at her best, and her appearance is well suited for the part.

Rain in Winter.

BY H. W. SHORFELLOW.

How disgusting is the rain!
Drenched is every one you meet
In the slimy dirty street,
In the muddy lane,
How disgusting is the rain.

How it drips from all the eaves,
Gaining dirt from all it leaves!
How from corner spouts it gushes
Forcing passers-by to rushes!
Across each window pane
It pours and pours,
And each wash-tub open wide
Overflows with muddy tide,
And the water inundates the floors.
The rain—the thrice disgusting rain.

The sleighing trade is slow;
Covered cabs are all the go;
India rubbers in the muck,
Slip and slide and go 'ker-chuck;
Everybody tries to borrow,
Umbrellas till to-morrow;
Mackintoshes are in vain,
Greatcoats wet, get wet again
And everybody grumbles at the rain.

And the damp and dreary breezes,
Bear an atmosphere of sneezes;
And the patient blower blows,
Most unfruitfully his nose,
And it red and redder grows,
Till he wishes it were froze,
So those tidal ebbs and flows,
Could be dried up in his nose.
As he blows and blows in vain
Madly cursing in his pain
Such a miserable, wretched and disgustingly
unseasonable—rain.

A Logical Sequence.

Whene'er I roam Toronto streets
What mud on mud my vision meets!
Yet still for mud Gerrard street west
Methinks it bosses all the rest.

There as I strayed and in the squash
Stood prying for my gone golosh.
The Reverend ROBB I full inclined
A preacher orthodox to find!

Yes! sure some calorific place
Must wait on men devoid of grace.
Our "City Fathers" else, I bet,
Could ne'er their due requital get.

Legisl.

The Government alive at last to Mr. KENNETH MACKENZIE'S distinguished unfitness for the position of Crown Prosecutor, have given the conduct of the CLEMENTS' prosecution to an itinerant temperance lecturer from Kingston. KENNETH is to appear as a witness, in which *role* he will no doubt be more successful. The Kingston man is not used to contend with the astuteness of a CAMERON, and fell most innocently into the trap laid for him. He appears to be a man of some account, or rather of too many counts.

At the Speaker's Elbow.

THE LEADING MEASURE OF THE SESSION.

Thursday, January 20.

Hon. Attorney General, in moving the second reading of "The Bill to supersede the Ballot," said he proposed briefly to explain the nature and object of the measure. It had long been felt that some more simple, expeditious and decisive method of settling contested elections was needed, and that the ballot was far too cumbersome for these go-ahead times. Accordingly, the preamble of the Bill set forth that it was in the public interest that the Ballot be superseded, and that the choice of rival candidates for seats in the Legislature be decided by "the toss up of a copper." He (Mr. MOWAT) was prepared to say that the day was not far distant when not only the election of members of the Legislature, but all cases involving a choice, would be decided by the universally applicable, and perfectly fair principle of "tossing up for it." (Hear, hear.) It was felt on all hands that life was too short for ballot-boxes and the elaborate machinery implied by them. In regard to the details of the measure, he would only say that he had duly considered the various modes by which the great principle of hap-hazard could best be carried out. He had looked into the "old-man-out" plan, "heads and tails," "drawing cuts" and "odds and evens," but on the whole he considered that the plan finally agreed upon by himself and his colleagues was the one most likely to approve itself to the House. The plan they had decided to adopt, he ought in fairness to say, was one originally suggested by the *Glob.*—and he would take that opportunity of acknowledging the many valuable suggestions which he had from time to time received from the same source—as it was, "to birl up a bawbec." He need not say any more on the point, as the printed Bill was now in the hands of members, and they could judge of the details for themselves.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON believed in open voting, even to the extent of having the polls open—for a whole week. He was a Tory, and thought it an unmanly thing to leave an election to the arbitrament of hap-hazard. He did not, however, intend to oppose the Bill, which, he found, was looked upon with favour by many on his side of the House.

Mr. HODGINS demonstrated a subtle connection between the modern principle of hap-hazard, or, as it was popularly termed, "tossing up," and the ancient practice of taking the auspices.

Mr. LAUDER claimed that the measure had been forced upon the Government by the Opposition. He himself had urged that land valuations should be made in this way in order to prevent a recurrence of such outrages as had recently been perpetrated in Proton.

Dr. CLARKE said he intended to vote for the Bill. He believed in the principle of hap-hazard because he believed in Prohibition. When the glorious principle of tossing up came to be universally applied, he would have hopes of Prohibition becoming the law of this land.

Hon. Mr. MACDOUGALL had always contended for a fusion of law and equity. The leader of the Government had very truly remarked that the principle of deciding by the tossing up of a copper was a perfectly fair principle, and he (Mr. MACDOUGALL) recognised its equity. It only required to become law in order to bring about that fusion which he had so long contended for.

Mr. BETHUNE highly approved of the measure. Indeed, it was his intention to introduce, on an early day, a Bill having for its object the application of the same principle to criminal trials, and also to civil trials in which, at present, a jury was considered necessary. He believed that the tossing up of a copper was destined to supersede trial by jury.

After a few remarks from various other members, the Bill was read a second time and referred in the usual way.