



AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL AND SATIRICAL JOURNAL

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

To Correspondents.

Mc., Watford.—Of course we would require photos.

E. B., Montreal.—Will return your MSS. as desired.

A. B., Chatham.—We are awaiting your second sketch.

Cartoon Comments.

LEADING CARTOON.—There seems to be a general dread that the Government will disallow the charters granted by the Manitoba Legislature to the South Eastern and South Western Railways. This apprehension at all events prevails in the Province most deeply interested, and we find our exchanges from that vicinity, without respect to party, crying out in tones both of warning and threatening. The Portage La Prairie Review goes so far as to intimate that the secession of Manitoba from the Dominion will be the almost certain result of such action, should it be actually taken by the Ottawa Administration. This is a question which should be looked at aside from partizanship, if ever there was one. If the Government consults the wishes of the Syndicate instead of those of the people, it will be doing a grievous wrong, and doing it gratuitously. Nobody pretends that any principle of Conservatism requires the disallowance of these charters, nor is it asserted on any side that the bargain binds the Government to do so. On the contrary, Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper both gave the Syndicate and the country to understand that charters granted by Manitoba before the ratification of the contract would not be interfered with. Sir John Macdonald has never been wanting in pluck, and now or never is his opportunity for nobly showing it. Let him stand by the rights of the country against the grasping giant, and snub its insolence once for all, if he wishes to have his name honoured and cherished by future generations. We earnestly trust that he will prove himself equal to this great emergency.

FRONT PAGE.—The cramming system in our public schools has of late received a pretty thorough ventilation, and not a moment too soon. The position of the average pupils hitherto is pictured in our sketch. As a committee of the School Board now have the whole matter under consideration, we hope they will hit upon some means of rectifying the evil by rescuing the juvenile Mazepas from their frantic charger, or

else inducing that noble steed to go a good deal slower.

EIGHTH PAGE.—A few sentences of Mark Twain's speech at Montreal were believed to have reference to our esteemed contemporary, the Telegram man, who is distinguished above all other "Toronto publishers" as an adaptor of two dollar American books to the popular price of 15 cents. Mark's joke was very good in its way, but J. R. R. is also a great wit, and perhaps his joke will be still better when he seizes Mark's forthcoming "History of England" and publishes it at the usual discount. And we are informed he will be perfectly safe in so doing, notwithstanding Mr. Clemm's "domicile" in Canada, which is altogether too gauzy to hold legal water.

Rev. Father Stafford has written a noble letter to the Kingston Whig in reply to Mr. Anglin, a member of the local Public School Board, who at a recent meeting objected to the appointment of a lady teacher on the ground that she was a Roman Catholic. Although Father Stafford's letter is of course couched in the most courteous and tolerant language, he might easily have been excused had he written angrily of this irritating piece of bigotry. When the School Law so pointedly states that the teaching profession in Canada is open to all, without regard to creed or colour, it is humiliating to find a man occupying the position of a trustee in a leading city of the country who would allow his personal feelings to impose a wrong upon a large class of the community.

One sentence in the good priest's letter, however, strikes us queerly. It is as follows:—

"I have no fault to find with Mr. Anglin's preference to have his children taught by Protestant teachers, provided he does so legally and not at the public expense, and to the prejudice and detriment of other men's rights.

To this it might be replied, that if Protestant people are only right in preferring Protestant teachers when they do so at their own expense, then Roman Catholics should be subject to the same rule, and thus the whole separate school system is acknowledged to be wrong.

Mr. McMurrich is in the field for re-election to the Mayor's chair, and the citizens certainly cannot do better than return him. His course during the past year has been distinguished for just such qualities as we wish to see in our chief magistrate, and his natural gifts and graces fit him pre-eminently for the position. Grip will plump for McMurrich!

A number of esteemed subscribers have written us with reference to the circular enclosed with the issue of a fortnight ago. Had these worthy gentlemen read the business manager's notice in the same issue, they would have learned that the circulars referred to were not intended for any excepting those whose subscriptions are unpaid. Besides, the wording of the circular itself made this quite clear.

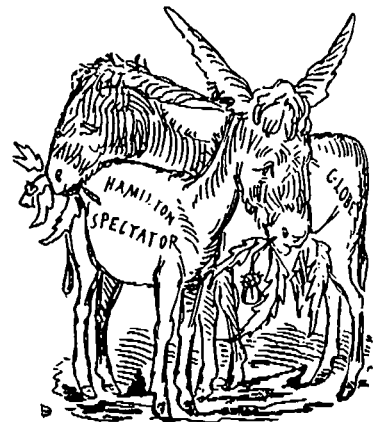
We are in receipt of a letter from a very witty but judiciously anonymous correspondent, who suggest that our title should be spelled with a final "t" instead of "p." If the correspondent means to allege that Grip is conducted with an unfair leaning to the Grit side of politics, a few dry facts would go further to convince than a little joke, however funny. Grip owes allegiance to no party at present existing in the Dominion. Its mission is to hold up the weaknesses of public men and measures without regard to party, and if in any recent case it has failed to do so, it ought to be easy for our correspondent to point out the circumstances.

There is only one thing that excites our contempt more than the falsity, fatuity, and intolerance of partyism, and that is the habit some people have of making sweeping charges without backing them up by facts.

The Budget, an ably conducted insurance paper published in this city, is making a series of spirited attacks on the Mutual Aid Associations that profess to insure the lives of their members. These associations are declared to be illegal and fraudulent, without exception. If this is so, why doesn't our Inspector of Insurance look after them?

The Whitby Collegiate Institute has won the handsome silver cup offered by Sir Hector Langevin for competition at the annual athletic games. This Whitby school has a habit of winning things, and its muscular record bids fair to equal its scholastic fame. We acknowledge with pleasure a photograph of the cup kindly sent by the Principal, who says he would like to pledge every old boy of the school on this mighty goblet. Long may he live and the good old school too!

By an oversight of the mailing clerk, Grip was not sent to certain of our exchanges for the past two weeks. We hope this will not occur again.



THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

An allegorical sketch, respectfully dedicated to certain prominent journals who have worn out our patience with interminable articles on "The question of Onts."