

Grip's Spelling Match.

A number of prominent politicians were lately convened for the fashionable amusement of a spelling match. GRIP consented to occupy the position of judge, objections having been made to the conductors of several of the leading journals on the ground of partiality. It was determined that the contestants should be divided according to their political proclivities, and that the prize, a handsomely bound volume of GRIP should be the property of that party whose representatives remained last on the floor, every failure to spell a word correctly excluding the perpetrator from further participation in the contest. To universal surprise, three Parties appeared on the scene, MR. J. V. SPOHN and DR. DEVLIN, of Hamilton, and CAPTAIN WYNNE, of St. Catharines announcing themselves as representatives of "Canada First", while the rest of the assembly ranged themselves under the respective leaderships of SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD and HON. GEORGE BROWN.

The first word given out was "Canvas". This had the effect of disposing of all three of the Canada First men, whose early retirement was greeted with shouts of derision.

The next word was "Ballot." An elderly gentleman on the Tory side was heard to mutter that "it was'n't English," but it was passed round with universal success. The first victim was MR. PLUMB, for whom "Oratory" proved altogether too much, an attempt to introduce an additional "r" turning out fatal. MR. MACKELLAR made a most extraordinary jumble out of "Agriculture" and was ordered to retire. "Drinking-bar" disposed of two gentlemen from British Columbia, who tried to condense it into two syllables. The apparently simple word "Petition" had an extraordinary effect in thinning the ranks of the competitors, who seemed disposed to try every way of getting over it, but the right one. DR. TUPPER got hopelessly confused with "Intercolonial" and had to step down and out. MR. CHARLTON in whom a great deal of confidence was reposed by the Reformers, confessed himself ignorant of the meaning of "Reciprocity," and the Premier came to grief in a futile attempt at a new way of spelling "Prohibition," MR. RYKERT was here discovered to have pasted a dictionary into his scrap-book and was ordered out of the room for referring to it. "Debenture" broke down MR. CROOKS, and MR. M. C. CAMERON, who was chuckling at his discomfiture, tried to "c" too much in "Accounts." "Colleague" removed MR. MOWAT from the scene. SIR FRANCIS HINCKS, who had come to town expressly for the occasion, was completely bewildered by "Currency" and, after several attempts and stoppages to correct himself, gave it up. HON. W. MCDUGALL found terrible difficulties in the word "Principle." After several corrections he finally, with a glance of self-approbation, decided on P-r-i-n-c-i-p-a-l—and went under.

The competitors finally were narrowed down to the leaders of the two great parties, who had spelled every word in safety, and MR. PLATT. Amid breathless silence GRIP announced "Purity" as the word. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD frankly confessed he had never heard of it, and declined the attempt. "P-A-I-R-T-Y" shouted MR. BROWN. On being informed by the inexorable judge that he was wrong, he left the room in a passion and MR. PLATT who modestly gave the correct spelling, was adjudged the victor, amid considerable applause.

Kissing and Kissing.

At Montreal last week a youth of nineteen and three girls aged seventeen, sixteen and fifteen, were arrested on Sherbourne street, for kissing and playing with each other and obstructing the sidewalk. The young man was fined \$5 or one month, and the girls discharged.—*World*.

In Canada we're slow.

In fact we're very far behind.—

'Tis Jonathan the world can show

The proper kissing pace, and go

Two-forty speed. In short you know

Can go it blind!

The boys he does'n't fix

With fines and such like "notions," while

In osculation's various tricks

With lasses' lips their own they mix

Like—well—*vulgariter*, like bricks—

Lured by love's smile,

The "kiss of peace," and lo!

The kiss of sudden "inspiration,"

Poor dullards! nought of these we know—

"Conciliatory" osculation,—

And "paroxysmal" buss-sensation;

We cannot show.

Nor e'en forget the kiss

"Tripartite"—couplet kiss in big;

Or buss triangular—whose bliss

To those who run the kissing rig,

No doubt must be, like roasted pig,

Most savoury dish!

A cents-able verdict. CROOKS vs. *The Mail*.

Questions for Candidates for Admission into the Good Graces of the Conservative Leaders.

1. Is there as much talent among the Conservative leaders as is generally stated? If so how many.

2. Mr. MCDUGALL asserts that "he (Mr. McD.) and Mr. CAMERON perfectly understand each other". Is it your candid opinion that Mr. CAMERON can understand Mr. MCDUGALL? Apply the fable of the Chameleon.

3. If the *Mail* was able to damage CROOKS 20cts. worth. How much harm could the *Leader* do?

4. If the *Mail* has damaged Mr. CROOKS 20cts. worth, how much has it hurt Hon. GEO. BROWN. Reason this from the infinitesimal calculus.

5. What is meant by "Conservative Reaction?" What is meant by giving as the date of its occurrence, the Greek Calends? Calculate from Dr. TUPPER's experience in Wellington.

6. From Mr. WILLIAM MCDUGALL subtract the epithets "Wandering WILLIE," "BILLY MCDUGALL," "Frozen WILLIAM" and "Look to Washington WILL," and show that 0 remains, and show that Mr. CAMERON's continuance in the leadership is a "rank" injustice to the other members.

7. Whose address reminds you of the remark of a western candidate who at the close of his speech said "Them's my sentiments, gentlemen, but if they don't suit you they kin be changed." Reason from *Butler's* analogy.

QUESTIONS FOR DITTO. REFORM.

1. Prove that the *Globe* is satisfied (a) with the result of PLATT's election trial, (b) with the result of the last Ontario Election, (c) with the conduct of "certain" members last Session. Reason from MILL's Logic.

2. On what grounds do you rest your belief that Messrs. CARTWRIGHT and FOURNIER will be satisfied with the change in the government moved by *The Mail* and seconded by *The Globe*.

3. Prove clearly that the Hon. GEO. BROWN is not a "defunct politician". How many dozens of seats, to your knowledge, have been offered to Mr. CROOKS, and also show that since the late verdict in his (CROOKS') case, he is no longer entitled to be called "poor".

4. Which is the "spiciest" paper in the Dominion? Give the *Globe's* remarks on this question.

5. Give a synopsis of (with the *Mail's* remarks on) the English-Longbottom-Prince-Pardee-Mackenzie-Canadian-Oil-Wells-Bubble-Case.—Give also a diagram connecting with it the *Globe*, Atlantic Cable, Reciprocity, Beecher Trial and Copper Pyrites.

The Modern Sphinx.

Out on the burning desert sands,

Immutable,

The Sphinx, unanswered riddle, stauds

Inscrutable.

Woman, thou art the Modern Sphinx,

Man cannot guess thee,

He sometimes fears and from thee shrinks,

More oft he'll bless thee!

Sometimes thou seem'st but made for show,

But this most odd is,

There's fire beneath thy coldest snow,

A heart beneath thy boddice.

False, not completely false art thou:

Affliction's showers

And the sharp teeth of Sorrow's plough

Bring up sweet flowers.

'Thou art a riddle, Modern Sphinx,

We cannot guess thee;

But most male monsters might, I think,

Soon learn to bless thee.

Croaks and Pecks

CROOKS declines to go south—for his health—*i.e.* to South Simcoe—for the Reformers can't gain that constituency by hook or by Crook(s)

ACCORDING to the Boston Journal, the present British House of Commons, which contains a number of brewers, is called the "Bung Parliament." But this is right. If the House of Lords monopolizes all the peverage, it is fitting that the House of Commons should have its beverage. *London Free Press*.

THE *Liberal* of the 19th contains a letter from the Rev. MR. JOHNSON in which he says that he is overboard now like JONAH. Oh no, MR. JOHNSON "not for Jo"-nah, we think it is the people that is over-bored with that subject.