

G R I P.

EDITED BY MR. BARNABY RUDGE.

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

TORONTO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PHILOLOGIST.—No. There is no reason to believe that marriage writes were so termed because the bride usually signed her name after the ceremony.

EVERYBODY.—You want to know why GRIP pictures JOHN BULL with glasses on. GRIP replies that the dear old gentleman has been of late years so near-sighted as regards Canada, that he thought he could not do better than present him with a pair of spectacles.

THE NEW DEPARTURE.

It grieves us to observe the evident pain into which Mr. BLAKE'S retirement from the Cabinet has thrown all the political gossips in the country—Liberal and Conservative alike; and as it seems neither just nor merciful to these poor creatures to withhold the truth at which they are so frantically guessing, GRIP deigns to state the Real Causes of the new departure:

(1.) Mr. BLAKE felt that he was liable to be ill at any time, and that daily he was growing older—as his more intimate friends have not failed to observe—therefore he thought retirement advisable.

(2.) Mr. BLAKE could not and would not submit to the arrogant dictatorship of Mr. ROSS, M.P. for Durham; nor could he endure the continuous punning of Mr. JOE RYMAI, therefore he thought retirement desirable.

(3.) Mr. BLAKE is a man of proud spirit, and pines for "foemen worthy of his steel;" therefore, when he came at length to realize the absence of the veteran East Toronto gladiator, he thought retirement desirable.

(4.) Mr. BLAKE succumbed to the overwhelming evidence of his inconsistency in the matter of "No Portfolio," produced by the *Mail*, and printed day after day in Roman capitals at the head of the editorial columns.

(5.) Mr. BLAKE retired at the instance of Hon. GEO. BROWN, who has some spring work to be done at once on his Bow Park estate.

(6.) Mr. BLAKE had a quarrel with the *Globe* and the Premier on the subject of appointing Mr. LOUIS RIEL to a seat in the Cabinet.

(7.) Mr. BLAKE retires from public life to accept a position as city reporter on the *Sun*. He has accepted a salary, but this is said to be, as usual, merely nominal.

NONPLUSSÉD.

The Chicago correspondent of *The Globe*, in a lengthy sketch of the rise and progress of that smart city, says:

"On the 9th of April, 1839, was issued the first daily paper, known as the *American*; and shortly afterwards, in an old log saloon on Dearborn Street, kept by IRE COOK, was given the first theatrical performance in the West. The father of the celebrated JOSEPH JEFFERSON acted as lessee, and one ALEXANDER MACKENZIE played the 'leading heavy.'"

We hasten to forestall an inevitable outflow of honour from certain Conservative newspapers, by explaining (1) that the ALEXANDER MACKENZIE above referred to did not rise to the Premiership of Canada, and (2) that no Dominion Minister of that name plays the role of "leading heavy," either politically or at parlour theatricals.

PENITENCE.

The potent, grave, and reverend disciple of McADAM, who publishes the *Leader*, dons severe sackcloth, sprinkles York Road dust and unlimited ashes on his head, and thus confesses himself before [a few] men:

"It is better to suffer adversity, for adversity sharpens the appetite, and obliges men to consider their ways. 'I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree, yet he passed away, and lo! he was not, for he could not be found.'"

There is no use in JAMES in his adversity going to whet his appetite; for he can never again consider his [high] ways in the light of exchequered replenishers.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

RETIREMENT FROM BUSINESS.—Messrs. E. RYERSON, HODGKIN & Co's old established Book-store is, we hear, about to be disposed of at a "tremendous sacrifice," owing to the generous determination on the part of the firm to relinquish that lucrative business in favour of the legitimate trader.

Messrs. R. H. & Co's. long familiarity with commercial pursuits will, however, eminently qualify them for the new branch of business in which they purpose embarking. The premises at present occupied by "The Depository" are well calculated for the display of the class of goods in which the distinguished firm intends investing its capital. Peg-tops, hoops, Jews'-harps, battle-dores, all of the best quality, and of startling cheapness, will be found at The New Store. A candy department of unprecedented magnitude will be conducted under the same management, and as the firm possesses the unique advantage of drawing at pleasure on the public exchequer, they naturally defy competition.

We therefore recommend the tax-paying heads of other toy and candy stores meekly to aspire to the distinction of becoming pupils in this normal establishment.

THE AFRICAN TEA TRADE.—Messrs. Garnet Woolsey & Co., who have, it is rumoured, been lately largely and profitably engaged in this trade, report as follows:

"Black Ashan Teas, which not long since began to rise and advanced considerably, have more recently commenced to decline, even before the demand had fallen off, influenced by unfavorable reports from coastwise, and they have now permanently receded to a point where business can be profitably carried on.

"Financially, matters are also more settled, the late run on the Banks of the Prairies having stopped without causing much uneasiness to the mercantile community."

In the Toronto market, we understand, there are no Ashan Teas at present in stock, but Assam Teas are held in small quantity, we believe, and are preferred for domestic purposes.

WANTED—WOMEN CRUSADERS!

SOME visionary person has been suggesting that the women of Toronto should unite in a crusade against the saloons of their city, in emulation of the brave female reformers of Ohio. Landlords high and low, it is said, have been brought to their knees in that conflict, and the streets of many towns have run down with whiskey and wine. It is claimed that this city is ripe for a similar experience, and a number of reasonable arguments are adduced in support of that view. But let any one seriously consider the project, and he will ask with GUR, *cui bono*? We have amongst us not more than five hundred saloons, all of which have been regularly and deliberately licensed by the Police Commissioners. The Police Commissioners are all temperate men, if not teetotallers, and there is no doubt they were sober when making these grants. Moreover, all our present saloons—and many more to come—are established purely for the benefit of the community, and the havoc which saloon-keepers make with the morals of the citizens, and the curses that exhale from their bar-rooms, are only incidental defects in what is well-meant and otherwise satisfactory legislation. Then why attempt, in such an extraordinary manner, to overturn one of the benign arrangements of our matchless municipal system? Are not liquor-sellers, as a class, most respectable and inoffensive people, and have they not a perfect right to turn an honest penny by their calling? And is there anything essentially inimical to the interests of society in the traffic they conduct? Surely not. That notion, like many other lamentable fallacies of the dark ages, has exploded. Whiskey and Water, like Mercy and Peace, have at last kissed each other. The reconciliation was wrought at the Mayor's Banquet on Tuesday evening, when, in the words of the *Globe*:

"The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in felicitous terms, proposed the toast of "The Bench and the Bar," coupling with it "The Cause of Temperance."

And no less a person than Police Magistrate MACNABB rose in the midst of the wine-bibbers, and, with his cup of cold water sparkling aloft, responded in fitting terms. Amongst other things, he said the temperance question was "now a most important one, but one which a few years ago would not have gained a hearing." Now look at the contrast—it gets an honored place in the approved programme of official champagne suppers! After this splash of "nature's only beverage," we learn that

"Mr. Vance also responded to the toast on behalf of the Bar."

Thus you observe the union is perfect, and everything is lovely.

Wherefore we again ask those who are entertaining the idea of a crusade against drunkenness to reconsider the matter. Perhaps the best thing they can do in the meantime is to call and interview the Police Magistrate.