

## 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, DECEMBER 12, 1874.

## Grip's Essence of Parliament.

THURSDAY.

SCOTT (Peterboro') presented a petition praying that no Act may pass to authorize the Town Council to shut up and sell part of Murray Street. For the information of Peterboro' Councillors we will state that they can shut up without having their mouths closed by Act of Parliament. "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished."

A Bill, and a report of the Judges thereon, respecting some lands in Trenton, was committed. The Bill errs in denouncing them "certain" lands while there's still uncertainty about them.

Among the Bills introduced was one to amend the Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Toronto Burying Ground, who, it seems, don't relish the idea of being made a "body" in that particular way; and another by RYKERT, to incorporate the St. Catharines Street Railway Company, a species of legislation in which he has already made more than his "merk."

HARDY moved for a return of information concerning Voters' Lists, to ascertain how the law was working, and to secure greater efficiency. It has worked some of those appealed against pretty hard, when they were cross-examined before the Court by efficient counsel. The motion, which was carried, led to several suggestions as to improvements in the law, such as members are ever ready to make regarding any statute, one of which, when adopted, generally proves "a piece of new cloth on an old garment."

TOOLEY moved for a return of papers relative to the London Lunatic Asylum, particularly as to the stock and crops raised on the farm. He disclaimed any factious spirit, and doubtless truly, as "a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind." He thought sufficient should be raised on the farm to supply food for the stock and vegetables for the institution. MCKELLAR was of opinion that they should have a man of more practical experience to direct the farming operations, like the manager of the Model Farm, under whose direction it has been so blooming as to diffuse fragrant odors throughout the Province.

CLARKE (Wellington) in moving for a return of marriage licenses issued and the names of the issuers, must not be understood as referring to "dead issues."

The Bill to amend the Ontario Drainage Act of 1873 was passed. It does not consider the act of the Government in draining the Treasury.

FRIDAY.

Leave was granted the RYKERT Investigation Committee to sit during the sitting of the House. Their absence from the Legislative Chamber will make no perceptible difference.

The Election Act Amendment Bill was read a second time. It provided for a scrutiny on both sides when an election is protested, and gives a chance to members to decline paying bills for money expended in electing them, by making them swear before the House, instead of at the accounts rendered them.

The Bill with respect to ditches and water-courses was referred to a committee, the members of which, however much they may have explored ditches, certainly never practised Hygiene so absolutely as to follow a water-course. Nor do we know of a Hydropath on the committee.

MONDAY.

Three committees reported. That on Standing Orders obeyed orders and let them stand; that on Private Bills said nothing of advancing Private Bills to a higher rank, though it should be done; that on Railways showed that it is not composed of navvies.

We have heard of "castles in the air;" but this day a Bill was introduced to vest a whole estate in the heir—of Robert Wilkes.

The Bill of the session was introduced, that for the redistribution of seats. We should like of all things to see a redistribution of the seats among another lot of men as members. That's an act for the consideration of the electors, and we sincerely hope they will carry it, by carrying the elections in the interest of competency and honesty. The Bill proposes a new member, for Muskoka and Parry Sound. The Opposition made no attempt to parry sound doctrine, and seemed willing to make a free grant of acquiescence. The proposed new county, Dufferin, is to have a member. Four other seats are to be manufactured by that celebrated maker, JERRY MANDER, Huron, Grey, Kent and Lambton to each get one. Bothwell is abandoned as dry territory, and Simcoe is given an additional member, and Mr. MANDER is to do some carving in order to Reform some of the seats in

Wellington, Cardwell, North Victoria, Peterboro', Brockville, South Leeds, Niagara and Welland. The material from Haliburton is to be used to veneer North Victoria's seat. Numbers of the Opposition could not see the advantage of the readjustment. Neither can we see any advantage—to them. The Bill was read a first time.

A division was had on the question of the powers of the Public Accounts Committee, the opposition to the course pursued being small, only 17 out of 56 members present.

The House in Committee went into the Central Prison. Pity it didn't stay there.

In Committee on the Election Bill the House adopted a number of clauses and reported.

The Bill respecting the boundary between Ontario and Quebec, and that to provide for the ballot at municipal elections were read a second time.

TUESDAY.

The House in Committee amended the Bill to provide for organizing courts in unorganized districts.

The Central Prison Bill, not any BILL imprisoned therein, was passed.

Further amendments to the Election Bill was concurred in. It is becoming something like a piece of patch-work.

The Estimates were brought down and referred to Committee of Supply, which will supply the red tape still required.

While the House was in Committee on the Bill to provide the Ballot at Municipal Elections, Mowat stated that the Government, with great reluctance, were compelled to come to the conclusion that it would be impracticable that the Act should come into force at the next election. We notice that it seems hard for the Government to come to any conclusion on any question.

A number of Private Bills were read a first time, members of a certain committee meanwhile studying the law and the profits.

WEDNESDAY.

Among the Bills introduced was an Act respecting municipal institutions. This Act may respect them; but sensible people can't. Would it not be better to pass an Act whereby municipal institutions might be so worked as to command respect, embodying a strong clause with reference also to the Provincial Legislation, which nobody ever thinks of respecting.

Bills relating to Presbyterian union, to Methodist union, and to Queen's College were referred to the Committee on Private Bills. The church bills are called "Charity Bills" in the House, probably because members haven't the check to take money from a church for their influence, as they do in other cases, and consider they give their votes as charity. Such charity covers a multitude of sinners.

The Premier's answer to a question shows that the proposed Normal Schools remain in their normal condition.

WARRENWORTH moved for a return of information about drainage contracts. What is water worth without drainage?

GIBSON made a motion and a speech, but at the request of the Premier stopped his noise. It has been remarked that GIBSON is generally noisy in the House at nights, and a reason is sought. The curious have only to consider that he is a GIBSON, *i.e.*, son of a gib. We commend this idea to the attention of Darwin's followers.

The Fire Insurance Bill was passed. It has been disposed of more quickly and easily than most insurance bills, as many a burnt-out policyholder can testify. In this instance, however, the companies did not pay their money on a "risk." They canvassed to insure votes; their policy included cash premiums to members; their plans were prepared by drafts favorable to committee-men; and the well-worked oracle did not disappoint them.

O'DONOGHUE'S Bill to amend the Act to establish liens in favor of mechanics was read a second time and referred to a Select Committee. We know of many mechanics who have established a lean on buildings about this city; and if they are forced to keep that kind of thing up for a little while longer it will establish the lean on them and their families. Such a lean is by no means in their favor.

A Bill to amend the Registration of Titles Act was read a second time and referred to a committee, who affect a registration of titles thus:—"Esq., M. P. P."

The Lieut.-Governor sent another \$1,000, omitted in transmitting the estimates. It is a wager of a thousand to one in favor of HILL remaining Police Magistrate of Clifton.

Six Private Bills passed through committee. We'd like to know "how much?" and get a return of the bills that stuck in the pockets of the committee.

CLARKE (Wellington), in moving the second reading of the Bill to erect the new County, Dufferin, alluded to the convenience of making Orangeville a county town. Some of the conveniences he did not mention—those it will provide for a few hungry office-seekers.

LAUDER spoke against time, a foolish contest on the part of any person, for the old man with the scythe always wins, and will surely silence the speaker some day. "The father of the faithful" accused the Government of breaking their pledge, and declared the intention to be the destruction of Opposition prospects in three Ridings. A Government pledge is a very brittle article, and surely ABRAHAM don't expect the Ministry to assist Opposition prospects further than they have done in retaining MCKELLAR. It is not the Government that has