



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

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TORONTO, SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1892.

GRIP'S EPIGRAM COMPETITION.

Prizes will be given for the best original epigrams defining the difference between the Grit and Tory parties regarded from an independent point of view, as follows:

1st prize	\$10 00
2nd "	5 00
3rd "	One year's subscription to GRIP.

CONDITIONS.

No epigram to exceed twenty-five words in length. Brevity will be considered a merit. All contributions to be signed with the name and address of the author for publication in case a prize is awarded. All contributions to become the property of the paper. The contest closes on the 1st of September, and no contributions received after that day will be included. The prizes to be announced in GRIP as soon as possible after the close of the competition, which is open to all, whether subscribers or not.

It is reported that in the late boating accident, Sir Richard Cartwright lost his spectacles. Would it not be wise now for the Liberal party to present their Ontario leader with a new pair, tinted and of greater magnifying power, to enlarge and give a different hue to the political outlook?



THE name of Hon. G. W. Ross has been prominently mentioned in connection with the Presidency of the University of Toronto, now vacant owing to the death of Sir Daniel Wilson. Such an appointment would be objectionable for more reasons than one. Mr. Ross is devoid of the special qualifications of schol-

arship which ought to be required in the occupant of such a position, but even were his fitness on this score much greater than it is, his prominence in partizan politics would be a still more valid objection. To make the Presidency of the University a political appointment would tend to permanently degrade the office in public estimation, by putting it on a level with the shrievalties, registrarships and other sinecures which constitute the spoils of the dominant faction. Academic positions at least should be kept free from the mire of party politics, and not converted into refuges for discredited and broken-down political hacks whom it is desirable to shelve.

THE professorship of Political Science is another University post that must shortly be filled, and no better selection can be made than William Houston, now occupying the position of Parliamentary Librarian. Mr. Houston is thoroughly versed in economic science, and the facility and readiness with which he imparts his views, his receptiveness to new ideas and the absence of anything like dogmatism in his methods, evince a rare fitness for the vacancy. His appointment would be a popular one. GRIP does not believe in narrowing the field of selection for professorships to our own country, but in cases where a Canadian has superior qualifications and is widely known as one who will do credit to the position, he ought by all means to have the preference over one from abroad. What is the use of our universities if they cannot impart sufficient education to fit men to become professors?

SALISBURY might just as well have resigned when the elections went against him, without waiting to be kicked out. Though the change of administration which the elections rendered inevitable has come about, there is likely to be a long and bitter struggle before Home Rule is finally carried. The principal obstacle is the split in the ranks of the Irish. As to the rejection of the bill by the Lords, that is a foregone conclusion, but it is equally certain that if Gladstone is sustained by the country they will yield in the end, as they always do. It would be a good thing for the English people if the Lords, for once in their history, would display the courage of their convictions, and persist in opposing the popular will. The English Democracy is in no humor to stand much fooling from them, and in case of a protracted resistance would very quickly abolish their privileges.

THE irony of conventional phraseology has seldom been more strikingly manifested than in the petition of Cardinal Taschereau and the Catholic archbishops, asking for the coercion of the Manitobans on the school question. Imagination fails in the attempt to realize the literal significance of the phrase, "Therefore your petitioners humbly pray," in the mouths of these haughty dignitaries.

THE reactionary Canadian press has been violently abusing Keir Hardie, one of the English Labor members, on account of the unseemly conduct of which, according to the cable despatches, he has been guilty. The cable correspondents systematically misrepresent and malign any prominent man of progressive opinions, and no fair-minded editor would accept what they say as gospel. If not a lie made out of whole cloth, the report is probably grossly exaggerated.