

## GRIP.

EDITED BY MR. BARNABY RUDOR.

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

TORONTO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 1875.

### Answers to Correspondents.

**TEETOTALLER.**—Of course Dr. CLARKE, the Temperance Crusader, is a member of the Short Horn Association.

**A. D. C. IN WAITING.**—The question of precedence is one the mysteries of which we do not pretend to understand. Write to the English Lord Chamberlain, or the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, or the editor of *Judy*.

#### From Our Box.

Miss COOMBS is nearly as handsome as Mrs. ROUSBY and a better actress. Her *Lady Teazle* on Monday night was admirable. She was equally effective in passages requiring stateliness, playfulness, indignation, or petulance. When she suddenly appears from behind the screen, she comes like a sunbeam. When she denounces the wicked *Joseph Surface* and sweeps from the room, she moves like a storm. Her chief defect is a slight want of sweetness and flexibility in her voice. Mr. SPACKMAN was not a good *Sir Peter*. Moreover whatever credit he may be entitled to he must divide with the prompter. Mr. SAMBROOK misconceives the character of *Sir Oliver*. Though that gentleman is of an amiable and cheerful disposition, he probably was not intended to indulge in such paroxysms of laughter as to suggest softening of the brain. Mr. GRISMER should have been content with *Charles Surface's* part as written by SHERIDAN. It is not easy to improve upon it. It is a good thing to reproduce these old fashioned dramas. They bring out interesting facts of history. A young lady assured us that BEN JONSON wrote the last act of the "School for Scandal" while the third act was in progress on the stage. How quickly actors must have learnt their parts in BEN's time. *E ben trovato &c.*

#### Nonsense Verses.

There came once a party to Coboconk,  
Who said nothing else but "Oh, no go donk!"  
What the fool meant to say  
Is not known to this day  
By the oldest resider in Coboconk.

A desperate fellow of Coboconk  
Declared that by George he would rob a bank:  
But when he looked round  
There was none to be found  
In the flourishing village of Coboconk.

#### At the Speaker's Elbow.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Friday, Dec. 3rd.

Mr. CROOKS has the reputation of being no mean scholar. I am glad of that, for he is certainly below the mean as a Parliamentary orator. When he was delivering his budget speech, he forcibly reminded me of DEMOSTHENES, I mean of course DEMOSTHENES when he had the pebbles in his mouth. There is one respect, however, in which he excels even Dr. CLARKE (of Norfolk) and that is in figures of speech. His budget speech was replete with figures. He struck his balances in a particularly striking manner. As thus, for instance:—

Ontario's Assets.....	\$7,790,578
Ontario's Liabilities.....	\$2,694,202
Ontario's Surplus.....	\$5,096,376

He has a curious way of making up his surplus. Amongst the assets which stand between the people of Ontario and direct taxation are a hundred thousand dollars worth of books lying at Ottawa! Perhaps he thinks these will be available in paying off book debts. There is, nevertheless, a satisfactory surplus of four millions in hard cash, or what is the same thing, in Dominion securities.

Some of the Municipalities that merely had their indebtedness removed by the last redistribution of the Surplus will probably be agitating for a

further redistribution. GRIP's advice is, leave the Surplus in the Treasury against a rainy day. In fact, I already perceive an ominous cloud on the horizon. The expenditure for 1874 has exceeded the receipts of that year by

**\$425,144.**

—the first time since Confederation that the balance has been on the wrong side.

I would give Mr. CROOKS and his successors similar advice to that which WILKINS MICAWBER gave to DAVID COPPERFIELD. Normal income of the Province, two, five, and five oughts (\$2,500,000) expenditure, two-four-nine-nine-nine-nine-ninety cents, (\$2,499,999.90) result, peace and prosperity. Normal income, two, five and five oughts; expenditure, two, five, five oughts, and ten cents; result, direct taxation and ruin.

Monday, Dec. 6.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

To-day, the following lists of members were reported as composing the various Standing Committees:—

*Ecclesiastical Bills.*—BISHOP, MONK, DRACON, the two CLARKES, a SEXTON and a BELL.

*Natural Products.*—HAY, COLE, WOOD.

*Trades Unions.*—BAKER, MILLER, FLESHER.

*Protection of Game.*—HUNTER, to whom was added a LYON and a BARR.

*Consolidation of Statutes.*—CODE, WILLS.

*Irishmen's Grievances.*—O'DONOGHUE and O'SULLIVAN.

The Committee appointed to enquire into and report upon the use of the Scotch bag-pipe was made up of the following representatives in the House of the clans:—

BALLANTYNE, CAMERON, CHISHOLM, FRASER, GRAHAM, GEANT, MCDUGALL, MCGOWAN, MCLEOD, ROSS and SINCLAIR.

#### Twain Pictures.

Drawn with a raven's quill by our special artist.

#### THE HON. MR. SNOOKS.

The Hon. Mr. SNOOKS is another example of how far an estimable man may be ruined by contact with politicians. Until he entered the sphere of politics, friend and enemy alike conceded his integrity and honour. None dared to suppose that he would betray public or private interests in order to advance his personal ends. Clients came to him for his integrity, more than for his brilliancy or legal lore. Such is the reputation he has bartered for the bubble of politics. In political life he is the creature of circumstances. Borne into power on the shoulders of party, he has not yet realized that the party, not he, was honored by his elevation. He has therefore succumbed to its authority. Bribery as a direct action he would scorn, not only for its consequences, but for its moral guilt, yet he will bribe indirectly in the interests of party. Intimidation he would hold to be indefensible in principle, and cowardly in practice; yet he consents to holding men in moral duress by undue influences. Cant and claptrap are nauseating to his analytical mind, yet he endures both in the interests of party. He came into power (like the *Mail* prospectus) as an exponent of honest and earnest political feeling, but he has crumbled away, under the demoralizing influences of party control, until few could recognize the man who once prided himself on his national spirit, and freedom from political sectarianism. Fewer still can recognize in the man who painfully sought three constituencies in order to retain the seat that his previous defection from well understood principles had imperilled, the man whose personal pride and self respect rendered him sensitive to a breath upon his reputation, or a touch upon his honor. Practical and shrewd, yet narrow minded and bigoted, sensitive to attack by enemies, yet careless of the reproach of friends, possessed of sound and cautious judgment, yet deficient in common tact, he is at once possessed of the qualities that make a good minister and a bad one. As a speaker he is a terror to the Reporters' gallery. Polite and polished in his manners, he yet estimates his *sangre azul* too highly, and is apt to treat those whom he considers his inferiors, with that condescension which is little above an insult. Personally he is gentlemanly in appearance, and wears well fitting clothes.

#### THE HON. WILLIAM MACSELF, C. B.

The varied career of this honorable gentleman proves how little talent can make up for a lack of principle, or intellect repair the lack of political honesty. A logical mind, a clear perception, a flow of language indicating thought and resource, a wealth of opportunity, and a sequence of circumstance, have yet left him in the vigour of his ripe intellect, playing second fiddle in the dwindled opposition of a second-rate debating society, called by courtesy a Legislature. There, in mental faculties and trained intellectual powers, he is as a giant among pigmies; yet like GULLIVER, he must bear his captivity till he repairs his fortunes, and builds him a boat in which he can escape from his captors. Meanwhile he will bring in the fleets of their enemies, and will crush their leaders at will in the hollow of his palm, and like GULLIVER, he is a source of ter-