

THE GRUMBLER.

NEW SERIES.]

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THE GRUMBLER

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THE GRUMBLER.

"If there's a hole in a' your coats,
I rede you tont it;
A chiel's amang you talking notes,
And, faith, he'll prent it."

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1863.

RESURGAM.

"I was so delighted with the luxuriance and color of the verdure of the fields of the old country, that I actually lay down and rolled on the grass."—Speech of the Hon. George Brown at the St. Patrick's Dinner.

Now the House—like the foes of Assyria of old—

It must keep a sharp eye on whate'er comes to pass;

For the member for Oxford—it scarce need be told—

Has like Nebuchadnezzar returned from grass.

And still, like that monarch, his power and fame

Will grow wider wherever he chances to roam;

For he has become sensible, gentle and tame

From the very few weeks he spent grazing at home.

And now newly fledged, a political lord,

He'll step into the midst of his friends and his foes,

Quite refreshed from his roll on the emerald sward,

Where he gambolled and brayed with delight when he rose!

Novel Measure.

—It is understood that Mr. Brown who is fresh from the Old Country, intends introducing a measure during the present session of Parliament, with a view to making it obligatory on parents to send their young sons home to the old country for the purpose of studying the fields of that favoured portion of the globe—in short, to send them to grass, where, as he naively observed at the St. Patrick's dinner on Tuesday, they may spend profitably their hey-day of youth.

Uncle Abo and Prayers.

—We cannot condemn Abraham for forcing clergymen to pray for him. In his dire extremity he sees, and so do his Generals, the necessity for all the prayers that can be offered in his behalf.

A SEDIMENTARY ON A TOUR.

THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL ABROAD.

Our readers will be delighted to learn that arrangements have been made with Mr. Powell, (an efficient D. A. G.) for a series of letters from abroad, descriptive and otherwise. A constant stream of correspondence from his facile pen, (he kept the books in his own country store) will be received with delight by an intelligent public, and as he intends to give us the benefit of his opinion on the harbour defences of England and France. Military men may benefit materially by the perusal of these letters.

LETTER I.

LONDON, February, 1863.

I have arrived safe and sound. My passage was marked by no extraordinary incidents except, perhaps, the absence of daily papers. The first three or four days on the sea, I did not give the matter much thought, as my time was principally taken up in swallowing repeated dozens of pale brandy—the way much better than I had often sold for \$2.00 a bottle. After my sea sickness was over I appeared on deck in my uniform. I may say without affectation, that I attracted universal attention. They took me for a Confederate General and I did not deceive them. Where was the war when they spoke of the Alabama, I looked knowing and assured them that no trouble need be anticipated from that quarter. This quieted the fears of some timid Yankees on board and I was treated by them with marked respect. General Snooks from Snooks-ville, U. S., was especially lavish of delicate attentions. I improved the time by reading the first volume of Jomini four times over and practising the sword exercise with a walking stick. Har- die's tactics and Fenton's letters on defence also, were perused by me with infinite delight. I worked out the problems they contained, and then tried geometry. In the latter study I made some headway, but the 6th of the 1st book tried my temper sorely. I sought relaxation from intense study in consulting with my American friend, General Snooks. Like myself, the General had never seen service but was anxious to learn. I explained to him the various theories of attack and defence, and completely floored him with an avalanche of technicalities. With the assistance of the volunteer drill book, we managed now and then to go through military movements. The two of us righted and lefted admirably; also formed two deep. Fours-deep we found much more difficult. We formed company admirably, and went through battalion drill with a steadiness which would have delighted the heart of a veteran. These last movements I improvised, as the drill-book gives no directions for enabling

the person to go through them. When I return, I shall issue a new drill-book to the Canadian Militia, supplying what I cannot but regard as defects in the regulation book. Thus, you see, I spent the time on shipboard profitably. When I arrived in London I called at the War Office, and asked to see Mr. Horse-guards, but I was informed that that gentleman was not in. I presented my credentials, and was asked to call again. I reserve further particulars for another letter.

Yours, &c.,

W. POWELL,
Lt.-Col. & Ex-General-Grocer.

THE WAR—STARTLING DESPATCHES.

(A veritable despatch, but slightly altered in diction.)

WASHINGTON, March 14.

A special despatch to the *Mudville Kiteflyer* says, that a reconnoissance was made yesterday by twenty-five men of the Grand Army of the Potomac, which has resulted most satisfactorily. The observations which this party was enabled to make, it is confidently anticipated, will produce the most astounding results, and end the war in less than three weeks from the present time, if not sooner.

Capt. C—, with the aid of a very powerful telescope, discovered (what do you think?) that a nigger was mounting guard on the opposite side of the Rappahanock. Astonished at the amazing nature of this discovery, the gallant captain pushed forward until he came within squinting distance of the aforesaid nigger, when he saw clearly that his fullest apprehensions were realized. There was the sable son of Africa doing duty for that vile rebel, Jeff. Davis, ready to pop off the emissaries of Father Abraham, should they come within bullet range.

Noting the developments of this strange sight, we lay under cover for some fifteen hours, two minutes and three-quarters exactly (by my chronometer), and were startled to see at least fifty more niggers pop out from the rifle-pits, and mount guard in turns. Wonderful to say, they acted in every respect like white men.

The result of our observations were at once made known to the President and the Council, who were almost struck dumb with the astonishing nature of the information.

The President was heard to declare that now the war was practically ended, and that the days of greenbacks were drawing to a close.

Preposterous.

—It is ridiculous to suppose that the vice of gambling shall ever be eradicated, so long as parents encourage their children to try "all fours" before they are able to walk, and permit them to indulge in cribbage, whenever they get into the vicinity of a sugar-bowl.