

## A DISAPPOINTING DELIVERY.

The caption of this article irresistibly suggests itself to the students of current events as he rises wearily from a perusal of the speech from the Throne, at the opening of the Dominion Parliament, and goes out to cut kindlings for the morning fires. There is, of course, something in the argument that this is Lord Lansdowne's first speech from the Throne; and GRIP heartily re-echoes the hope that as he gets practice the speeches will improve. But the wonder still remains that, in view of all the speeches which are kept in stock at Ottawa, one a little longer and with bigger words in it could not have been served up. Why the expense of librarians and clerks and soldiers and coal at \$6.50 a ton, if our assortment of speeches from the Throne is not to be called into practical requisition when the people are really hankering for something good and solid even if it is a trifle old? If this thing goes on there will be nothing for it but to sell the whole lot to some parliament whose collection is not full up, do away with the speech preservation department, and let every Governor-General get off his own speeches or leave it alone, just as it may please him. Happily there is hope that these extreme measures will not have to be resorted to just at present.

But to glance cursorily at the speech. The preamble in which His Excellency expresses satisfaction at his appointment may be turned over to the editor of the *Toronto News*. He can deal more cursorily with it. There is, no doubt, a strong feeling in the country that this office ought to be filled by a native, and all of us unite in the opinion that it should be the *News* man. The great difficulty presenting itself is the incompatibility of the offices of editor and Governor-General. No editor should be allowed to scoop his brethren on the publication of the speech from the Throne. But the constitution can doubtless be amended so as to provide for such a contingency. Let us, however, leave the matter now in the Hands of the People.

Congratulating us on our prosperity, His Excellency speaks of "the rapid extension of our commerce" being "followed by overtrading." "Rapid extension of our commerce" is altogether too long a synonym for "the N. P." GRIP begs His Excellency not to persist in this reckless spirit of substitution. We are a long-suffering people; but our finer feelings must not be trifled with. "The N. P." is good enough—or rather bad enough. "Overtrading" is a felicitous term. GRIP likes it, factory and foundry men, and their employees, who are enjoying lots of holidays, can appreciate the word beautifully. Haven't the Government been doing a little over-trading also? Recent elections rather support this idea.

The Fisheries Exhibit in the old country was all well enough. But what kind of an exhibit will Toronto fishermen be able to make if the befoulment of Ashbridge's Bay continues? The Governor-General doesn't seem to care much about Ashbridge's Bay; but when he has angled for catfish there once, the Bay will have his sympathy. Meantime a marked copy of this GRIP must be sent him.

To consolidate the statutes is right, then it will be only a very few of the strongest members who can fling them around the House or carry them off in their grips.

We don't need much information about last season's immigration. Of course the number was in excess of other years. Toronto had some of the excess. They took up quarters on Conway street, and were a desirable class. They desired a great deal from the city.

It is gratifying to know that British Columbia is not satisfied yet; when British Columbia becomes satisfied, we will all hear about it in some way or other, no doubt.

The rapid increase of population in the North-West is only vaguely alluded to, no

mention whatever is made of Bull-pup Charlie, Williams, of the *Globe*, *et hoc genus omne*, which is Latin for "all the rest of the gang." GRIP is sorry for this.

The Indian question ought to be settled, for a fact. Give each of them a 100 acre farm and a brick house with iron dogs on the door step. Our red brethren want encouragement and whiskey.

The electoral franchises in the various Provinces must be assimilated. It's not fair that Mr. J. J. Hawkins should be the only Tory who can pose as an M.P. when his opponent gets the majority of votes.

As to the protection of working men, it seems to GRIP that working men are pretty well able to protect themselves, except from political crooks at election times. A measure to provide against this danger may be looked for. Only, expect to get tired looking for it.

The railway legislation is of no interest to the general public. It is only editors and members of Parliament who look out for free passes. The editors get them because they are good and deserve them.

Regarding the finances, it is only necessary to say that the Finance Minister has the old stocking pretty full, and feels confident he can pay the country's board right along without getting up a social or a raffle. It is a good thing when the coin holds out; but the danger is that presently the Finance Minister will be complaining about the scarcity of Savings Banks. Savings Banks are all right enough in their way, but you can't get saloons to flourish where they exist.

Having thus fearlessly criticized the Speech, GRIP pauses for a reply. The Governor-General needn't get mad because it is characterized as a disappointing delivery. Let him subscribe for this journal and call it square. It's square if he doesn't subscribe, any way.

## A GRAND FREE THOUGHT SCHEME.

MONTREAL, JAN. 28TH, 1884.

Mr. GRIP, Esq.

SIR,—Although an entire stranger to you, in the name and for the sake of common humanity, knowing your great moral influence in the country, I make bold to introduce myself to you at this early date in order to ensure your co-operation and sympathy in the advancement of our grand cause, *to wit*, the evolution of a new social system, having for its foundation the total obliteration from the civilized world of that old deep-rooted and degrading superstition commonly called the Christian religion. Our prospectuses are not yet out, but a synopsis of the programme of our future work may not be unacceptable to you. *First*, The abolishing of all churches of whatever denomination; all Sunday schools, orphan homes, old men and women's homes, hospitals for children, refuges for the fallen, and all such institutions; not because they are intrinsically bad in principle, but because they are the outcome and offshoots of this ancient superstition. In their stead to erect one grand magnificent temple of science, in Montreal, say. *Second*, The energetic and extensive dissemination, in the cause of public morality, of all books, pamphlets and papers now interdicted by law as immoral and obscene; the works of Voltaire and Paine to be issued in cheap penny editions, so that they may come within the reach of the poorest. *Third*, To use every means to get hold of the young, to thoroughly inoculate them with freethinking principles, to completely exclude from their young minds all idea of a superior Being called God, and for that purpose to bring pressure to bear upon the Minister of Education, compelling him to sanction a new set of readers compiled from the most advanced freethinkers, and from which will be carefully excluded all reference to God. Bibles to be cremated wherever found,

as dangerous and poisonous. *Fourth*, All children found making use of that ancient and familiar fragment of literature, purporting to be an address to the Supreme Being and commencing with "Our Father who art in Heaven," to be severely reprimanded, and brought up in entire ignorance of such ideas as Heaven, Holiness, Faith, Hope, Love; in short to restore them to the unprejudiced state of mind peculiar to our forefathers, the nude and noble savages. *Fifth*, To visit the bereaved, the fallen, the broken-hearted, the weary and heavy-laden who have been beaten in the battle of life, and for their comfort to expound to them the inflexible nature of Law. *Sixth*, Great exertions to be made in order to reach the dwellers in the slums, explaining to the thieves, saloon keepers and frequenters, wife-beaters and such, the beauty of law and morality; teaching the vile and degraded the glorious principles of science; by black board illustrations setting forth the theory of evolution as seen in the origin of man—from the protoplasm, pollywog, frog, and monkey up to man, where it suddenly stops and disappears in intangible gases. Should they, after their fashion, cry, "What are yer givin' us," reply that Law is immutable. By such lectures to reclaim the seething masses from vice and crime. *Seventh*, To make a point of visiting the dying, assuring them that there is no such reality as God, or Christ, or Hope, or Heaven, that there is neither light nor life beyond the grave, only darkness and black nothingness for ever. *Eighth*, The one grand feature taught in the temple to be the art of living without God in the world. *Ninth*, If any member of the temple should be struck with the idea that since the word evolution indicates progress toward perfection, and seeing that man is by no means perfect (being half spiritual or intellectual, and half material), it follows that to carry out the evolution theory, he must go up higher; since the present phase of development cannot by any means be considered the perfect crown and flower of Life. Should any member, we say, be guilty of thinking for himself to this extent, he shall be instantly sat upon as tainted with the old leaven of Christianity—which takes up evolution where we leave off, in these words—"When the earthly house of the tabernacle is dissolved we have &c. &c." The same treatment to members who shall maintain that Law suggests Lawmaker or designer. There are other details which are of minor importance, but I have I think, indicated enough to secure your hearty support in the projection of our scheme. Meantime I remain

Yours truly  
ADOLPH HOLLOWHEAD.

REPLY.

A. HOLLOWHEAD, ESQ.,

SIR.—Yours received. You may rely implicitly on my efficient aid in the successful and speedy projection of your scheme—and yourself, outside this office whenever you may arrive.

(Signed)  
GRIP.

Toronto, Feb. 1st, 1884.

## CAWS AND CROAKS.

This Transvaal trouble is becoming a nuisance to newspaper readers—a regular Boer in fact.

The gorilla sleeps in a hammock. This is additional testimony of the animal's relationship to the human race—on the female side.

They tell of a Birmingham man who kept a dead sister's corpse for twenty years because he wanted to give it a decent funeral. He must have been an awfully poor man or else he wanted an awfully decent funeral.