

PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

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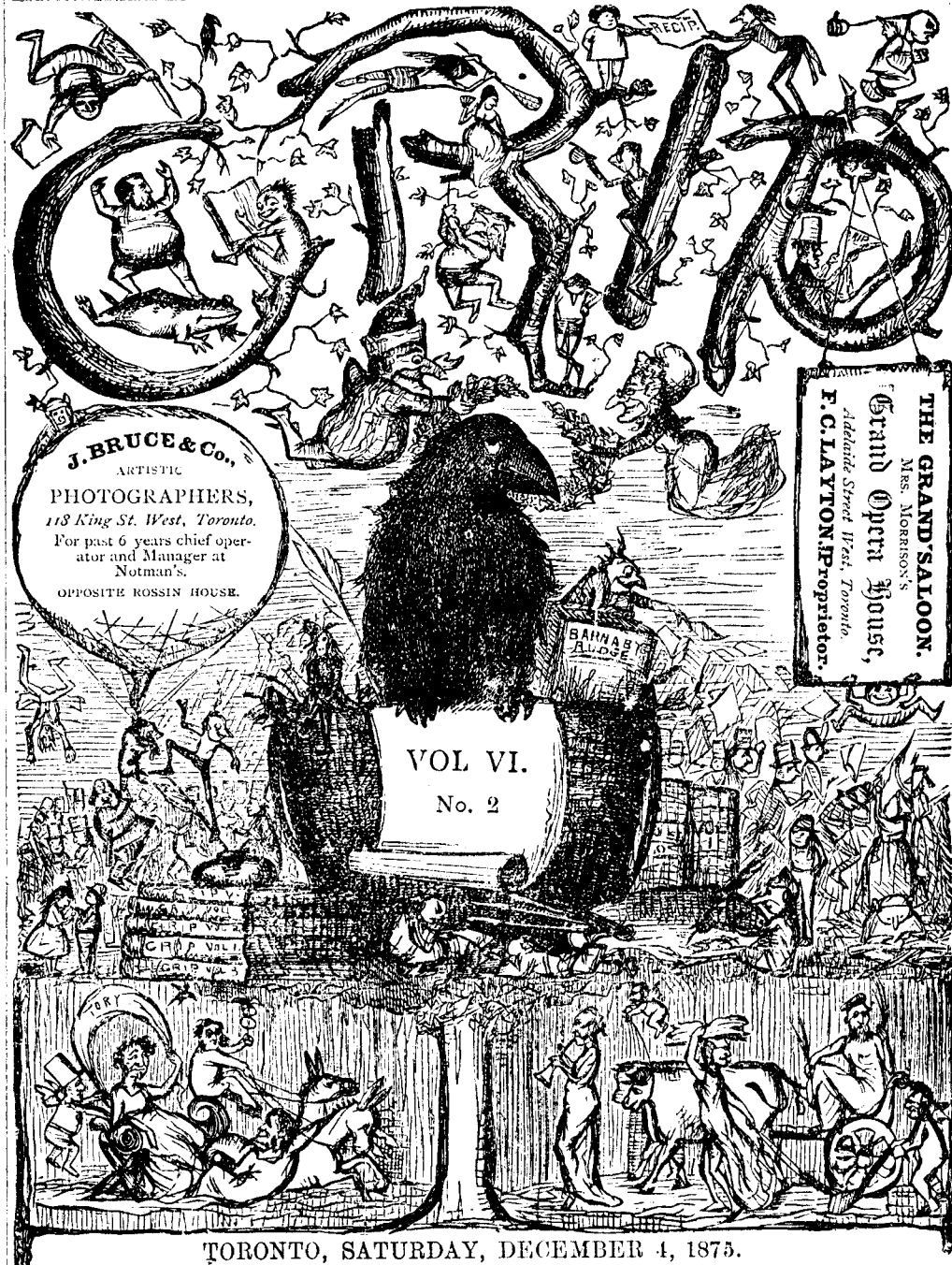
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EDITOR'S NOTE.

ORIGINAL contributions will always be welcome. All such intended for current No. should reach GRIP office not later than Wednesday.—Articles and Literary correspondence must be addressed to the Editor, GRIP office, Toronto. Rejected manuscripts cannot be returned.

CONTRIBUTIONS, when accepted, will for the present, be paid for at rate of Two DOLLARS per column. All articles for which payment is expected must be accompanied by the name and address of the author.

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

TORONTO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1875.

Answers to Correspondents.

ADMIRER, MONTREAL.—Your communication is too personal. GRIP is never personal, as you must have observed.

LITTLE WANZER.—If the *lock* stitch is good for sewing a *hem*, we don't think it would be improper to call it a *hemlock* stitch. A-hem!

From Our Box.

"Our Boys" is one of those plays which make no display of heroic action nor loftiness of sentiment, but are at the same time free from sensation and mawkish sentimentality. Its sparkling dialogue, full of humour, lively if not particularly keen, and its natural incident are a pleasing contrast to the blood-and-thunder melodramas which the exigencies of a 'provincial' theatre too often bring upon the stage. By the acquisition of Mr. SPACKMAN, Mrs. MORRISON'S Company has gained strength. His sense of humour, his versatility, and above all his ability to speak English, make Mr. SPACKMAN welcome to audiences somewhat tired of the American accent, and American actors. His 'Old Middlewick' was a most refreshing piece of comedy, and the mainstay of the play. In a play where the aim is to depict the manners of the refined society of to-day, it is only necessary that the young ladies should be unconstrained, animated and—lady-like. It is not too much to say that these requirements were fulfilled by the ladies who played the parts of *Violet* and *Mary* respectively. Mrs. MARLOWE, who is always at home in low comedy, made a capital *Melinda*, one of those highly entertaining but impossible maids-of-all-work, who, in the imagination of play-wrights, bloom in the dingy precincts of lodging-houses. Miss CARR gave general satisfaction in the character of the *Maiden Aunt*. She abstained almost entirely from the mannerisms which often mar her performances. Mr. GRISMER as *Young Middlewick* was lively and natural enough, and struggled bravely with the peculiarities of accent which make it hard for an American to represent an English gentleman. An English gentleman moreover would not have lengthened out the third act unnecessarily by pronouncing the *o* in *tempora* long. Mr. FARWELL is more true to nature as a heavy villain than an English baronet.—Mr. SAMBROOK often finds himself in positions which no doubt he would avoid had he the power to choose. It is only just to say that in such positions Mr. SAMBROOK does his best, and no man can do more. "Our Boys" in the gallery on Saturday afternoon evinced a desire to assist "Our Boys" on the stage with suggestions, which, though friendly, were superfluous. Whistling which would send a shudder through the frame of a mummy, is of course, by prescriptive right, permissible, and when it celebrates the triumph of virtue, or rewards the expression of a soul-stirring sentiment, it is even laudable. But when the gods indulge in a running fire of comments, and vain repetitions of what is said on the stage, they transgress the bounds of decency, and should be suppressed.

Twin Pictures.

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

THE HON. OLIVER SLOWGO.

The Hon. OLIVER SLOWGO is the type of a christian politician of the time serving class. He quitted politics for the Bench, and his translation was viewed by all as a fitting tribute to a man whose incapable honesty unfitted him for political intrigue. He quitted the Bench for politics, that he might become a warning to all men, that "*Facilis decensus Avernis, sed revocare gradum, hic labor hoc opus est.*" His late political career has been an injudicious combination of hesitation and rashness. He hesitates where he should be rash, and is rash where he should hesitate. As a judge, conscientiousness and self respect rendered him stable, as a politician he has no anchorage. Were his *Dictator*, his *Cabinet Councilor*, and his '*placens uxor*,' to vanish at one fell swoop, he would not know enough to go in when it rained. Accustomed to household homage, he values himself accordingly. Naturally unostentatious, were not greatness thrust upon him, he would prefer competence and contentment therewith, to the pomps and vanities of public life. The "heathen G. B." is his evil spirit, and forces him to assume a role he is little fitted to undertake, by tickling his vanity and practising upon his weaknesses. Endowed with a natural reluctance to publicity, and with a back aching with the burden of party sins, he tries to think he likes it,

while his soul revolts at his slavery, and longs to be at rest. In manners he is urbane and undignified. In speech he is petulant and platitudinarianous. In person he is puffy, prim, and pompos. He wears hats a shade too large for him, and swathes himself in black that ill becomes him. His character, appearance, and disposition, is that of the hero of the 'Pickwick papers.' He has a capacity and appreciation for humor; which he carefully represses lest he should compromise himself.

THE HON. MAT. INCONSISTENT.

The Hon. MAT. INCONSISTENT is a sample of a good man spoiled by party politics. Entering the political arena with a bundle of cut and dry principles, he has sacrificed them all in the interests of party, but prates of them with lingering fondness as though he were still their possessor. He is a true Conservative, since he opposes all innovation, however beneficial. Honesty is his great forte. Because he is not a burglar or a highwayman, he assumes that he is honest. Yet he scruples not to say that which he does not believe, and supports his party in actions of very doubtful integrity, while from his standpoint of undeviating honesty he applies the lash of a caustic, and sometimes epigrammatic tongue, to the derelictions of his enemies. In speech he is strident, pedantic and diffuse. In manners he is unsocial and forbidding, concealing under a cynical crust an amiable disposition. His delight is to gaze with folded arms upon the follies of his fellow mortals, and to congratulate himself that he is not as other men. He laughs at bitter jests, and rolls his tongue round a morsel of biting sarcasm as though he enjoyed it, which he does not. As a minister he was painstaking and industrious, and the ingratitude of assertions to the contrary has embittered his personal feeling. He longs for the return of the Family Compact, and their gentlemanly despotisms. He is weakly jealous of his reputation, or the shreds of it, and considers himself soiled in his Conservative purity, by his enforced contact with an errant politician, whom while using, he abhors. Obstinacy he considers firmness; prejudice, principle; and dogmatism logic. He is therefore dangerous as a colleague or an enemy. Personally he is distinguished by a goatee and great angularity. His attitudes remind one of the late CANON KINGSLEY. In dress he is studiously negligent.

At the Speaker's Elbow.

Friday, Nov. 26.

Perched at Mr. Speaker's elbow as befitted my no-party character, I was ready to give the assembled wisdom of Ontario a hearing.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Dr. WIDDIFIELD moved the adoption of the Address. The motion was mechanical, he having wound himself up for the occasion. The mechanism of his speech, however, was well arranged. Mr. FERRIS seconded the motion. This gentleman is a great thinker. He said—"I think, Mr. Speaker;" and again, "I do think," and again, "Mr. Speaker, I think." The observations fell with telling effect upon the House, but he rather weakened the impression made by repeating them too frequently. If he "thinks" audibly throughout the session, he will bore the House.

The motion having been duly made and seconded, the com-motion began. The principle involved in the motion before the House, as Mr. Speaker was good enough to inform me, was whether or not there was anything in the Address. Hon. Mr. MACDOUGALL thought not. He said he hated to kick against nothing—it strained him so. He must have strained himself considerably, for he kicked savagely against the Government policy. Various other members also did their best to strain themselves.

Incidentally, the Premier offered "explanations" in regard to the retirement of Hon. ARCHIE MCKELLAR. That gentleman's friends had come to the conclusion that the "honest yeoman" ought to withdraw from public life. He must be blessed with some very sensible friends. The Hon. the Premier also stated that the gentleman in question would have retired sooner had a vacancy offered in a Lunatic Asylum. Failing that, he had accepted a shrievalty. His experience in connection with the Central Prison peculiarly fitted him for dealing with the criminal classes.

Hon. Mr. FRASER astonished the House with an exhibition of the celebrated tomahawk trick. It consists of slinging that weapon at an opponent in the most reckless manner, but without harming a hair of his head. He showed himself quite an adept in the art.

Mr. LAUDER pitched into Mr. FRASER with all that absence of circumlocution for which he is distinguished. He said—"Let him (FRASER) make a few more of those speeches, let him just make a few more of them, and, if he makes a few more of them, Mr. Speaker, let him dissolve the House, let him dissolve the House, I say, and (speaking with slow deliberation) if—he—dissolves—the—House—Mr. Speaker, he will then see, he will then see Sir (this with great energy), he will then see where his majority is." To this gentleman has been assigned the duty of uttering the responses for the Opposition side of the House.—Accordingly, the "hear, hear" of his stentorian voice is continually heard resounding through the Legislative Hall. It is said he sought the post in order to let the Government know that he was "there, there."

There were several characteristic speeches made. I would have re-



THE POLITICAL GHOULS.

produced that of Mr. DEROCHE's *verbatim*, only I know that there is not a sufficiency of capital i's in our font. The member for Addington claims Sir BOYLE ROCHE for an ancestor. I wonder whether Dr. CLARKE does also. The last named gentleman favoured the House with a temperance lecture. As an advocate of temperance he is a tetotal failure, being intemperate in language, metaphor and opinions.

Monday, Nov. 29.

This day was occupied for the most part with hearing new members repeat their campaign speeches. It was very interesting, no doubt—to them, but I went asleep. Happening to be roused for half an hour, I thought the Address must have been carried, as it appeared to me that the member for South Simcoe had become the subject before the House. Mr. Speaker assured me, however, that it was all right, and on that assurance I went to sleep again. I awoke, just catching the words—"do now adjourn".

"RUPERT," said I, "is the motion for the adoption of the Address carried?"

"Yes," said he, "without amendment."

"Then there was something in it after all."

One thing about this debate struck me very forcibly. Member after member, on the one side of the House and the other, deprecated the extremes to which party spirit led. "Can it be," I mused, "that all of these are sound on the Goose Question?"

Ode to the Speaker.

(With the congratulations of Sorrowful Sam.)

All hail, thou justly celebrated WELLS,
SPEAKER WELLS!
What a world of dignity the epithet foretells!
In your hat like a triangle
You sit in solemn state,
While all the members wrangle,
While the noisy members jangle,
While they jangle and they wrangle
And their mother tongue they mangle,
You sit as dumb and motionless as Fate,
And you never try to strangle
The debate.

Noble WELLS! A burning sense of justice me impels
This fact to indicate
That when the stream of oratory wells
When it swells, swells, swells
When its dreariness repels
And in dullness it excels,
You sit a mild and easy-going Fate,
And you never try to strangle
The debate.

And thou shalt tinnabulate the bells,
Dinner bells!
What a hope of cookery the pleasing sound foretells,
What a wealth of savoury smells!
And the members
The lean and hungry sages of the county
Who to nothing base would truckle,
They will chuckle,
They will chuckle, chuckle, chuckle,
As they eye the steaming knuckle
Of the lamb no more to suckle,
The tender lamb that never more shall suckle!
And they'll say it's "ow'er muckle"
To their taste, as straight they buckle
To the hasty demolition of thy bounty
Genial WELLS!

When the flowing bowl its generous fumes expels
Speaker WELLS,
And the patriots discern its potent spells,
When the mind its influence feels
And it steals, steals, steals
On the brain until it reels,
And truth compels,
Then you, my WELLS, will loose your tongue and "blow";
You will tell in words that glow
How once audacious HODGINS did aspire
In Speaker's robes to go:
And you impelled him higher
Than a kite:
How you elevated him beyond his own desire,
Not into a cocked hat
(In truth he longed for that)
But higher, higher, higher, higher,
Far beyond his own extravagant desire:
Even higher than the heaven-aspiring flight
Of the kite!

Queer Poetry.

In the December No. of the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* Mr. JOHN MACDONALD, M. P., has broken out in poetry, after this manner:

Autumn days are sombre
Autumn fields are sere
Autumn woods are changing
To crimson, gold and *cuir*!!

As *cuir* is the French for leather, its presence in poetry leads us to think that the muse must have been speculating on soul-leather.

In Rama Was There a Voice Heard.

The following appears in a late issue of the *Orillia Packet*:

"*Editor of the Packet*:—SIR,—I am told that a newspaper in Toronto called *Grip* offers prizes for the best poems on "Coboconk" and "Couchiching," the last word of the second and last line to rhyme with the whole word. Will you be good enough to ascertain for me whether competitors will be allowed to write in the Indian language?—A RAMA INDIAN."

The spectacle of the poor Indian, applying his untutored mind, as he wanders through the recesses of his native forest, to the composition of a poem on Coboconk "gets" us completely. We say unhesitatingly that our prizes are open to the red man. We are determined to encourage native talent, and we could not consistently exclude aboriginals. We invite poems on any subject from the Indians of this continent generally.

We shall give prominence to any composition in which we are able to recognize real merit, and provided it contains no word of more than seventeen syllables. O-GIBE-WAY, red-men, and while HURON it, give us a poem full of the wisdom of SENECA. ONE-ON-DAGGERS will suit as well as any.

Oysters and Shells.

While Yankee SIBLEY cooley nets
The whole of Silver Islet ore,
Canadian WILLIAM only gets
A silver shilling, nothing more!

Croaks and Pecks.

DOES Mr. Speaker WELLS wear pumps?

A SHREWD man. One who has a scolding wife.

ONE of the Islands lately in dispute is called Shangoniah Island. We suppose because Canadians shan't go near it.

WHAT is the difference between a stereoscope, and "a few glasses?" One makes two things appear one; the other makes one thing appear two.

MR. MACDOUGALL'S son-in-law applied to purchase Silver Islet because he could SEY-MOUR in it than other people. Unfortunately he saw less of it than he expected.

"MACDOUGALL vs. THE GLOBE PRINTING COMPANY."—A facetious jurymen proposed to give the plaintiff a 'quarter' damages. He was mistaken, the *Globe* gives no 'quarter.'

HON. J. H. CAMERON quotes FOX to the effect that as a Minister of the Crown a man can have no character at all. In Canada this distinction is the privilege of the humblest politician.

ESTIMATES.—Mr. MACDOUGALL must not aspire to be a Finance Minister. He is dangerously sanguine in his estimates. His estimate of the value of his own character was just \$49,999.80 more than he got for it.

Electors of Montreal centre,
In singular moods all now revel in,
Your Tories are in a bad temper,
Your Grits having gotten the DEVLIN.

It is understood that ACHILLES HODGINS has retired from the Grecian Councils, and is sulking in his own tent. He is justly annoyed at the prize having been voted to AGAMEMNON WELLS. Meantime AGAMEMNON is swelling with the pride of victory, looking more like the frog however than the ox which the king of men should resemble. Cheer up, swift-footed one! THERSITES LAUDER will bring your rival to a sense of his true proportions.

COURT ETIQUETTE.—At the conclusion of the state trial the other day, Mr. BETHUNE (see *Globe*) "made the common motion for leave to move, which was granted," and he moved—out of court. Any man can get into Court, but it seems to be necessary to ask leave when you want to get out of it. But really we thought all this red tapeism was done away with by the late legal reforms. Is there nothing in the Administration of Justice Act to meet the case? There certainly should be, so that learned counsel, when they want to go home need not be kept fooling around making common motions.

THE MAYORALTY!

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