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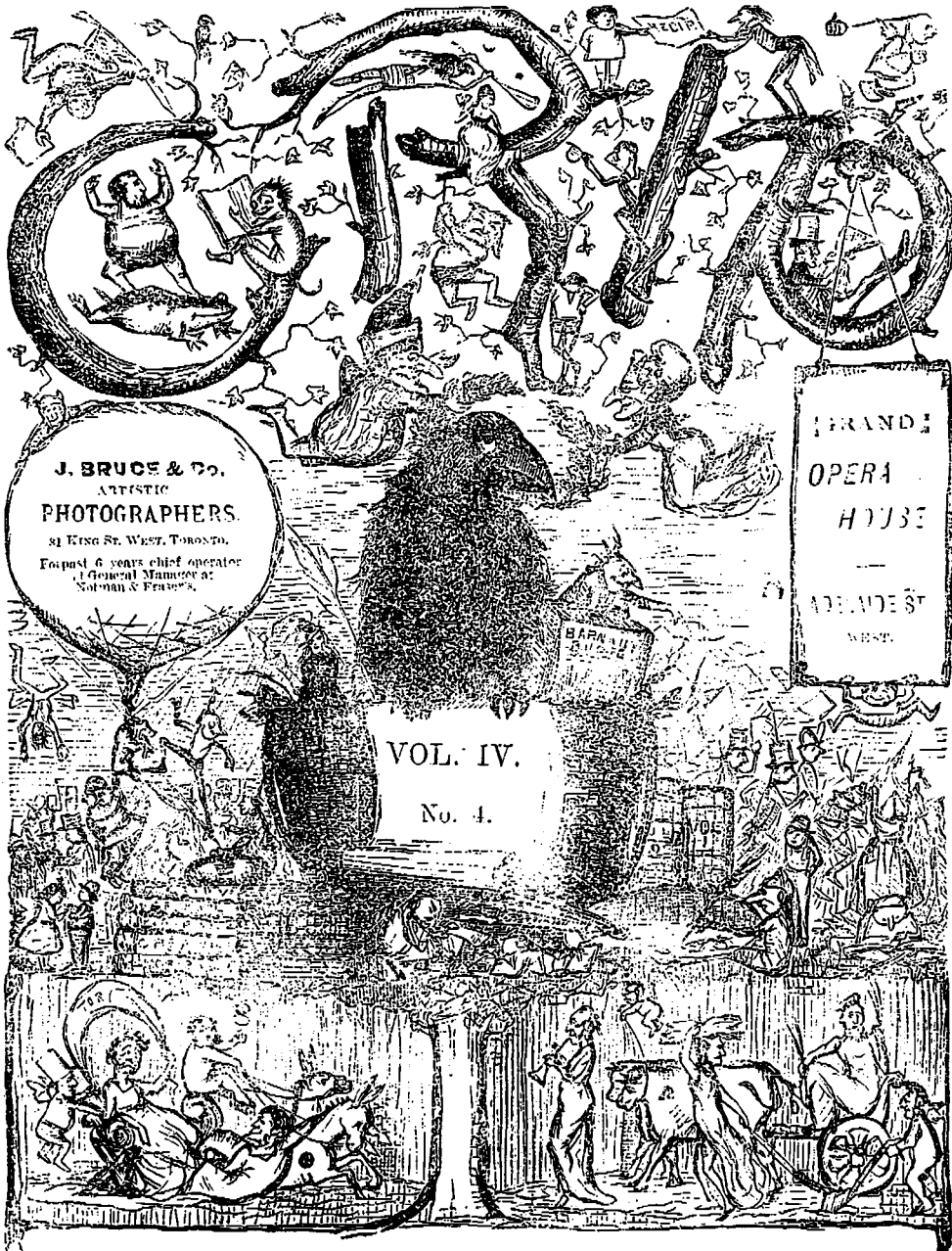
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ORIGINAL contributions will always be welcome. All such intended for current No. should reach the Editor not later than Wednesday. Articles and Literary correspondence must be addressed to P. O. Box 958, Toronto, Ontario. Rejected manuscripts cannot be returned.

CONTRIBUTIONS, when accepted, will, for the present, be paid for at the 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 Oyster; the greatest Man is the Fool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1874.

## Grip's Essence of Parliament.

THURSDAY.

McMANTUS corrected a *Leader* report, just as though it had been read by others besides himself.

A number of private bills were publicly passed.

An amendment was made to the Municipal Elections Ballot Bill to allow all returning officers and poll clerks to vote, excepting the clerk, who is clerically disfranchised. Happy mortal! The time for preserving the ballot papers was shortened to one month. A clause was also inserted to make the act apply to voting on by-laws, which was struck out next day.

The Bill to extend the Acts for the better government of the Niagara frontier was read a second time. Does it never strike the House and Ministry that the whole Province might be under better Government.

The item in the estimates for hospitals and charities gave rise to a discussion the like of which may fill hospitals, but certainly can never spring from charity. Some members of the Opposition objecting to sectarian grants, FRASER accused them of riding the Protestant horse, and at once entered the lists on his Papal velocipede. If the word "Catholic" be taken to signify "true," silent SARRIS is the most Catholic speaker in the House, but if it mean "universal," then DELOCNE is the true Catholic orator; for he is ready at all times to speak upon "anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

FRIDAY.

FAREWELL introduced a Bill respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors under shop licenses, which does not by any means reach all sold over shop counters.

On motion for the third reading of the Bill to erect the County of Dufferin, BORTON moved the six months' hoist as the last possible piece of opposition he could offer. "All his might" was mighty small; but it may yet prove like the widow's mite, and count to him for much. CAMERON and McGOWAN having spoken on the amendment it was lost on a division, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Municipal Elections Ballot Bill Committee was committed to strike out the clause, inserted the day before, referring to cases of voting on by-laws, after which it was passed.

The Bill respecting the operation of the Ontario Statutes was read a second time. It expresses a belief in the Trinity, and proposes to deal with terms on the sliding scale.

The Bill to amend the Upper Canada Jurors' Act was read a third time. A good many Jurors' acts might be beneficially amended. The same may be said of Pharmacy acts, only that it's often too late to restore the victims of criminal carelessness.

The House refused to add the little Bill of COPE to the municipal code, the objection being against a continual tinkering of the Municipal Act. We are glad to see the House come to our way of thinking. We have not lived in vain.

HODGINS moved the second reading of the bill for the relief of the relatives of intestates when the personal estate is of small value. We suppose when the estate is large the relatives are relieved enough without an Act of Parliament. The mover said the Bill was founded on a similar statute in England, which though a very common, we think is the very worst recommendation in Canada. It is a species of monkeyish imitation that is carried too far—across the Atlantic ocean.

DEACON evidently believes in the injunction, "Take heed to thy ways!" for he moved the second reading of the bill respecting road allowances in Westmeath and Ross townships, promising to make amendments. In the title of the bill we find "blank concession lines; but in reality they're not so blank as would be the face of any one who attempted to travel them.

CAMERON asked when the QUICKLY papers would be ready. PARDEE said quickly.

WEDNESDAY.

LAUDER introduced a Bill to amend the Administration of Justice Act, and prevent the administration from acts of injustice in controlling municipal advertising.

In answer to CAMERON, the Attorney-General said he hoped to get through the business with the week. "The whole business of the session might, not unappropriately, be called "the doings of the week."

DEACON'S road allowance Bill was passed by the House. Whatever

the House passes the Executive "orders up," when, no matter what the value of the stakes may be, the Lieutenant-Governor does no more than give assent.

It was resolved that till the close of the session the House should sit twice each day except Saturday.

MOWAT in moving the second reading of the Redistribution Bill felt that the Government ought to apologize to their political friends. The friends quietly accepted the apology and the prospective advantages.

SCOTT (Grey) naturally thought he should know something of his own county, and stated his views. He trusted the Attorney-General would listen to reason and do justice. Different men reason differently, and have different ideas of justice, some very indifferent.

ANDAGU spoke of and for SIMCOE and declared that outsiders (nobody outside the House, we presume) had influenced the Attorney-General for political ends.

LAUDER was affected over that broken promise. He sees the threatened destruction of Wellington, and frantically prays for "night or Blucher"—anything to prevent Grit gerrymandering.

At the evening session several bills were passed and others advanced a stage, when the Redistribution debate was resumed by LAUDER, none of whose remarks are essential to the completeness of this "Essence."

SCOTT (Peterboro') went into statistics, and drew a picture that looks very like JEANIE MANDER.

BOULTON despairingly entered his protest. He saw no reason for rep. by pop. in the Province.

BETHUNE said "Cornwall."

GIBSON amid the laughter of the House displayed a Chinese puzzle representing Huron redistributed.

SPEZINGER approved the action of the Government, of course.

HARDY honestly congratulated the Government, and acknowledged the manner in which SCOTT of Peterboro' had taken hold of the question and argued it out.

FITZSIMONS protested against the Government Bill.

CODE complained that the bill made him a non-resident of his constituency, and said to the Government, as the Irishman said to the bull that tossed him over the fence: "Begorra, I believe ye did it a purpose!"

CORRIE while approving the general principle of the Bill was opposed to many of its details. He commonly favours generalities.

MERRITT objected to the addition of six members to the House as useless and expensive. He pointed out irregularities in constituencies to show that the Government had not carried into effect the principle unannounced, rep. by pop.

CAMERON argued in a like strain, adding the acknowledged necessity of a strong opposition. To test the sense of the House he moved a three months' hoist.

MOWAT did not propose to remove all the inequalities of representation, but a change in the direction of rep. by pop. He was satisfied from the debate that "the scheme" was as near perfection as possible.

RYKERT thought the House had no power to alter its representation, and that the business could be carried on satisfactorily with 45 or 50 votes. How would it do to reduce the House to that number making RYKERT one of the cast.

CAMERON'S test of sense resulted in a vote of 25 for to 44 against his amendment. We fail to see any sense from the test.

The bill was read a second time.

McKELLAR presented the Crown Lands Report. We wonder if it includes a list of deferred payments to newspapers for advertising the sale of those Mimico lots?

TUESDAY.

A large number of private bills passed.

The bill respecting the operation of the Ontario Statutes got a second reading. Many of these Statutes are totally inoperative.

The House in Committee on the Redistribution Bill passed a number of clauses and allowed others to stand to be again considered. The Opposition members think the majority acts without consideration—for the feelings of the minority.

At the evening session other clauses were agreed to, the committee asking leave to sit again. Strange that committees never ask leave to lie.

The bill respecting the operation of the Statutes passed, and will probably be itself a statute very soon, the operation of which may or may not be respected.

BETHUNE moved the second reading of his Bill to provide for compulsory voting. He merely did so to have a discussion. It has been asserted, and with some show of reason, that a good many motions have been made to create discussion, with a view to obtaining the complete sessional allowance. The mover argued that as only about one man in ten has the franchise, that man should be compelled to exercise it for the sake of the other nine. This is a direct argument for universal suffrage, and also shows that we now have "minority representation," pure and simple. He held that it would do away with bribery in hiring teams to convey voters to the polls, and understood it was practised in Switzerland with good results. However, Canada is not, nor is it like Switzerland.



CAMERON thought it would prevent bribery if every voter was made to swear. That would be the natural effect of such a law on most electors.

MOWAT was not prepared to concur in the principle. He agreed that every elector should vote; but that to compel them was impracticable.

CALVIN in opposing the bill actually endorsed the "free will" doctrine.

PRINCE believed it was based on sound logical principles. Yes, more sound than logic.

DENOUE believed Canadians should not be afraid to originate measures without looking to foreign precedents, and immediately referred to the working of the ballot in the United States as a proof that it alone did not prevent bribery.

PAXTON propounded the idea that a man might be bribed to deposit a blank ballot.

MEREDITH thinks the Bill will yet become law. He's an inveterate joker, and will surely die a MEREDITH.

SCOTT (Peterboro') gave the measure an unconditional support.

BETHUNE closed the debate by re-asserting that he only wanted to hear the bill discussed, and moved its discharge from committee, which was done.

#### WEDNESDAY.

A motion was carried for a return of information as to what extent English practice justified the giving that oft-mentioned half-holiday to the Central Prison employees.

It was resolved that there be two sittings on Saturday.

A number of Orders-in-Council relating to railways were ratified.

The Supply Bill was read a first time. It supplies \$2,285,598.15 to be expended variously.

A number of private bills were advanced. The money was advanced before.

In Committee the Bill for re-adjusting the municipal debt and abolishing tolls in the County of Middlesex was given the three months' hoist.

The Bill respecting railway traffic was read a second time. It is feared the companies will think the bill fails in respecting their interests.

The Bill in reference to marriage licenses was read a second time. It permits a victim to get a license when the issuer is absent from home and relieves persons who have obtained licenses after the parties signing them had lost authority. Now, Benedict, don't rejoice; it does not "relieve" you from your wife.

#### Whitewash.

THE Committee of Investigation into the charges proffered against Mr. RYKERT has closed its labors. In as much as members on both sides were shown to have "taken the shilling," it was not deemed prudent to be too hard upon the member for Lincoln; so the Grit majority in order to get the Tory members of the committee to agree to a report agreed to apply the whitewash in such a manner as to clear RYKERT without censuring McKELLAR. Of course people will hold their own opinions as to who is culpable, and these opinions will be largely dependent on the political prejudice of the holder. Tories will declare that RYKERT is blameless, while they will condemn his accuser; and Grits will as certainly hold that the charges were but too true, and that the accuser was fortunate in being let off so easily. Members had better act honestly for once, and say, at least in relation to their party, if not all personally, "*pecca culpa*;" for there can be no doubt that members of them on both sides have accepted payments for assisting the passage of private bills. Indeed it is notorious that it is but too common an occurrence. The question will naturally arise as to why so many lawyers go into the House, to the sacrifice, as they assert, of valuable practice. It is strongly to be suspected that their motives are not so pure as they would try to make the electors believe. We wonder if a law were passed against employing in a professional capacity in the House not only members of the legal profession, but also any firm with which they may be connected, would there be such eagerness displayed by this class of the community "to represent their compatriots in Parliament?" We think not. We do not desire to be understood as declaring that lawyers are the only members of the House that allow a fee to be quietly slipped into their pockets, for that is far from being the case; but we do say that men who pretend to make great sacrifices in going into Parliament, and who can conveniently throw business of a paying character into the hands of their own partners, are, to say the best of it, far from being like CÆSAR'S wife. If they be honest beyond the suggestion of appearances they will be the first to agitate for a law such as we have referred to above. For the sake of the profession we hope to see a lawyer introduce such a measure at the earliest possible moment; but we would not that other members should wait for a gentleman of the gown to do it.

#### How Political Slanders Arise.

It has lately been whispered in certain circles, not far from the throne, that the member of the Ontario Legislature for South Ontario is a Jew. Fearing that this assertion might be repeated on the floor of the House, as many of equal importance have been, during the heat of debate, we have, at considerable expense, for drinks, and much personal inconvenience arising therefrom, traced this "charge" to its source. We find that it originated with a departmental clerk, who, being bored by one of the many inquisitive persons that haunt the lobbies and corridors of the Parliament Buildings, in his vexation failed to exercise that discreet air of mystery and unconsciousness, not to say stupidity, as well as that dignity, not to say boorishness, for which Government employes are noted. Being asked "What is FAREWELL?" the functionary so far forgot himself as to answer, "farewell is Adieu;" and the story soon spread from lip to lip, that the member for South Ontario eschewed pork and prayed on Saturday.

This will serve to show the manner in which are set afloat those tales which rob (if possible) parliamentarians of their Christian character, and give rise to innumerable and interminable Committees of Enquiry. We congratulate ourselves, the Legislature, and the public, that we have in this instance saved the Province the enormous expense of a Parliamentary committee; and we hope our efforts will be duly appreciated. We are now fully alive to the fact that we have a claim; but before preferring it we desire to see what acknowledgement the electors of North York will make of the somewhat similar claims of ERASTUS JACKSON upon them. Should they elect him we shall await better times; for we have no desire to blast our young life by accepting a seat in the Legislature, which, as things are at present, would be degrading to our pride. Sooner, however, than see the country made ridiculous in Britain, we would go to London as Ontario Emigration Agent, and earnestly strive to teach JENKINS the duties of his position, and keep him from making a donkey paddock of the Dominion.

#### Stark, Staring Mad.

WILL not some admirer of the *Globe* present it with a straight jacket? There is evidently a crazy man on the staff. Witness the following extract from the issue of Tuesday last:

"Dr. SMITHERT has been preaching to the Icelanders at Kimmount, through an interpreter.

"Dr. FRANCIS says that this theory was first announced in a work published by him in 1871, and adds:—

"Belleville Curling Club is pitted against the Port Hope Club this season, to play for the Royal Caledonian medal."

THE Tories are just now like enthusiastic Scotchmen; for they consider WILLIAM WALLACE a hero.

THE M. P.'s. are so enamoured of extra sittings that they have lately been having them on the sidewalks. Such sittings are generally very brief, and parliamentary dignity is utterly dispensed with.

THE most successful speaker in the Ontario Legislature is ALFRED BOUTBEE. When he begins to address the House the members are at once "carried away."

ELECTORS who want anything from the City Council should prefer their demands about now, as aldermen are exceedingly, even obtrusively, amiable these days.

A KINGSTON paper noticing JIMMEL BRIGGS' entrance to the lecture field with his "Experiences of a Bohemian," concludes by saying, "He may come to Kingston." Now, though JIMMEL has done a good many wicked things, and even committed murder—on the Queen's English—we have no desire to see him punished thus, though we have no doubt many better men have come to it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.—"Now children, who can tell me what became of the locusts after the plague?" BRIGHT LITTLE BOY (at the foot of the class).—"Please sir, John the Baptist eat 'em."

MAUD, about 5—reflectively—"Have I the measles, Lucy?" LUCY—"Yes, dear, now shut your eyes and go to sleep." MAUD—with an Archimedian shout—"No, 'tisn't the measles; it's a flea!"

QUERY—Do the Roman Catholics believe in LYSEN law?

The *Globe* has an article on "The Controversialists and the True Catholic Faith." "Polly put the kettle on!" Boiled down it amounts to this:—Inasmuch as the Archbishop of Toronto protests against certain assumptions, he is a Protestant. Carry should carry the new convert along the straight way, FULLER should have a fuller sense of brotherly love, while ROBB should no longer rob the proselyte of the credit due for his confession of faith.

A pompous country singing master learnedly talking shop, declared that in one term he could only impart a *superfluous* knowledge of music.

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