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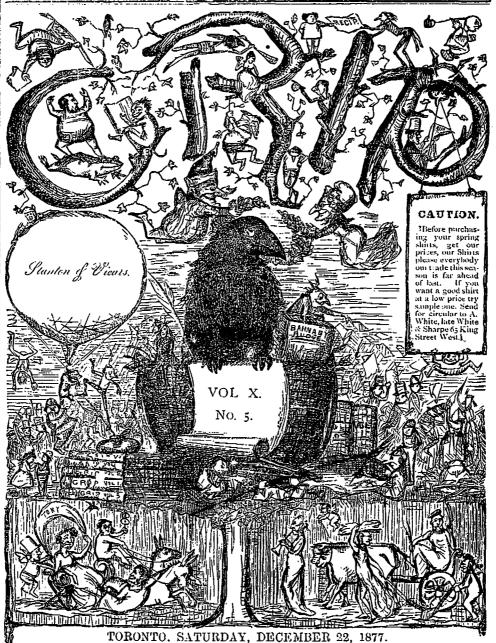
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EDITED BY MR. BARNABY RUDGE.

Che genbest Benst is the Ass: the genbest Bird is the Gol; Che genbest Sish is the Syster; the genbest Man is the Sool.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 1877.

### Answers to Correspondents.

QUILP-Good; shall be glad to hear from you again. J. S. F.-Thanks; call when convenient.

#### Our Book Review.

VENNOR'S WINTER ALMANAN, '77—'78. Montreal, John Dougall & Son, 136 pp. 8 vo, paper.

At a time when so much interest is taken in the Eastern War and the settlement of the Fisheries Dispute, this work is exceedingly apropos. This almanae is superior to that of Mr. J. BILLINGS in orthography, which is accounted for by the fact that Mr. VENNOR makes it a business to look out for spells. It will also compare most favourably with the standard work of Dr. AYER, although it doesn't express itself so unreservedly as to the merits of certain pills. The subject matter of the book is well set up and displays much learning and type. The book is filled with valuable information, contributed by the advertising community, and excellent weather predictions, from the pen of the famous Prophet &c., are thrown in gratis.

#### Christmas Stanza.

Round and rounder still expanding, See the Christmas pudding standing. Crammed with richest fruit and spice, Wooing to a second slice— Eggs and suct, can they bring Indigestion? No such thing.

Beef; if inches four of fat is, Mutton quite as good as that is— Pie of pork from country sent— Fish might grace a Bishop's Lent— Best of sauces—can they call Slight dyspepsia? Not at all.

Wine—to-day we must be merry— Brandy, whiskey, port and sherry,— Christmas punch-bowl we must fill. Sweet, and strong, and hot, but still, Fevers, apoplexies—such Could they cause? Oh, no—not much.

No. But still it needs explaining, Can it be defects of draining? Is it something in the air? Is that season sickly? Where Is the cause that all next week People will for doctors seek?

#### A Capital Thing.

"Capital punishment has been abolished in Italy."—Exchange. The punishment of Capital, unfortunately, still continues. Men who otherwise might be happy are weighed down with gold and the care of wealth. How they linger in the weary dungeon of life, reading penances in monstrous day-books and ledgers! How their brains are racked by bank accounts and loss and gain columns! How the glittering piles in the vaults, and phantoms of jimmies and crow-bars haunt their visions! How they bow beneath the load and become silver white in the service of mammon! And, finally, how they sigh and groan when the sands of life are run, and they find that they cannot take even a shining silver dollar with them to pay their railway fare in the dread beyond! Nay, with its great advantages over all this, poverty is a capital thing, a most desirable thing, and GRIP nearly feels tempted to exclaim "give me poverty or give me death." But a lot of auxious heavy creditors in the background will not allow it.

#### Ye Den of Ye Bachelere.

Far above ye citye noyses, storyes fyve above ye streete, Does ye bachelere reposyng smoke while passe ye moments fleete; There ye mightye hookah bubbles; there perfumes ye milde cigarre, Never femayle mandayte fearinge, drivinge them to distance farre.

Never there ye sharpe faced ladye, who ye boarding mansionne keepes, Layeth oute ye butter rancydde, or ye weak infusionne steepes. In ye tea-potte in ye morninge; nor wyth deepe deceptive prayse, Carveth up ye roosterre anciente nor ye beefestake toughe displayes.

There ye coffee hotlye steamethe, redolente of rich perfume;
There ye smelle of kidneys fryinge odorouslye filles ye roome;
There ye rolles ye bakerre bringeth freshe or woe betydeth hym;
There ye milkemanne filles ye pitcherre wyth ye milke he dare not skymme.

There ye bulledogge in ye cornerre cropped of eare and round of eye, There ye fatte Maltesianne felyne close besyde on rugge dothe lye. There ye gunnes and roddes suspendedde in their glorye on ye walle, Telle of deedes of meritte wondrous which in huntynge dyd befalle.

There ye immayte on ye sofa, heedynge notte how tyme doth goe, Reads ye yellow covered pamphlette, tellinge tayles of dismalle woe— How ye hero from ye Rockye Mountayne Injuns fiercelye tooke For hys bryde a lovelye ladye, which ye sayme dyd meane to cooke.

Howe he off in triumphe bore herre, strewing bodyes alle arounde, Wyth extremelye savayge personnes coveringe their natyve grounde. Thencewarde down the Mississippye how theire path they dyd pursue, Scoopynge halfe an alligatorre oute to forme a large cause.

Till hys onlye brother spyinge hym in passinge from ye shore, Forms affectionne for ye ladye, halfe a myle offe then or more. Them decoying, hee dothe cooke there for the twaine a poysonned dyshe; They partaking, hee hys brother straighte dothe throwe untoe the fysh.

Then untoo ye mayden sayeth, "Madamme, knowe you cannotte live, But, if you with mee will marrye, I an antidote wylle give."

Awfulle truly the conditionne of that payre of lovers deare,

Muche enjoyed on ye sofa by ye readinge bachelere.

But ye poysonne badlye workinge, being contracte arsenye, He who murdered had been comethe madly wyth uplyfted stycke, Fiercely savinge—but ye deeplye interestynge storye maye Nowe be purchased at ye booke stores, if you steppe in anye daye.

There at nighte ye merry storye passeth gleefullye arounde, There acrosse ye roofe-toppes poureth from the windowes high the sounde

Of the songes uproarious lyfted by ye parties there withinne, Other parties with them adding noise of laughter to the dinne,

There no wyfe ye inmayte scoldeth if hee tarrye oute too layte. Nor at dinnerre childrenne worry hym to fylle successive playte, Free from billes and dunnes hee may bee, if he prudentlye dothe live. Nor need Christmas anye feare of creditorres untoe hym give.

Sad to thinke, although ye squirrelie to ye toppe of tree may runne, It maye happe to grounde he droppeth, slaine by fowlerre's ringing runne.

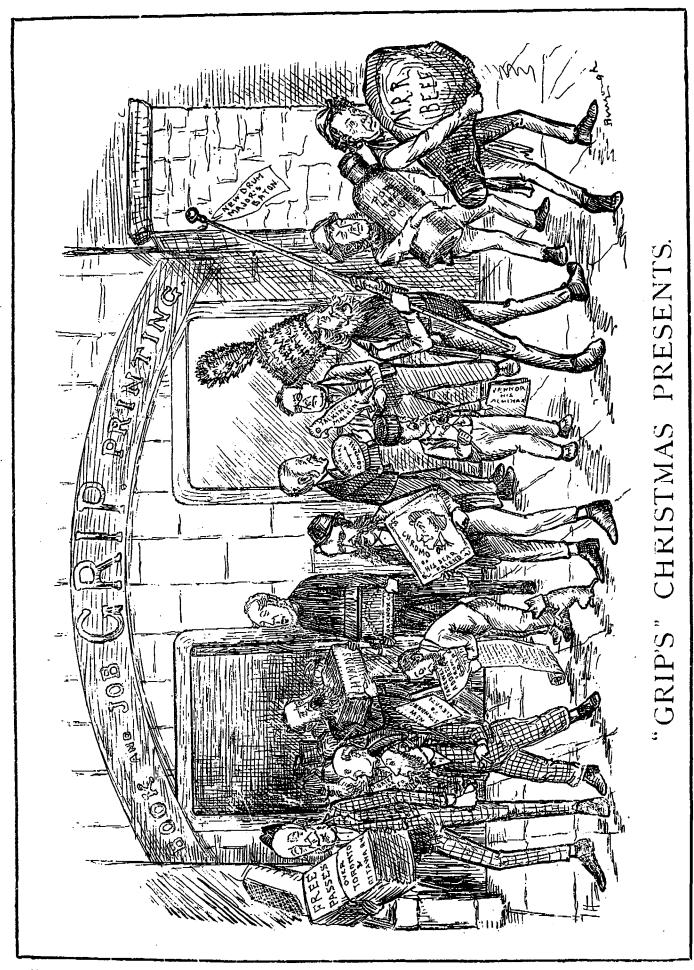
gunne.
Woe is mee, to highest atticke though ye bacheleres may go,
Everye daye they downwardes tumble, struck by Cupidde's tatalle bowe.

### Au Innocent.

"Unsophisticated" writes: Pick up the Mail when I will, I find the first thing in its "City Matters" column reads as follows: "The Hounds will meet at the kennels at 3 o'clock sharp." I have long been trying to find out what this could mean, but have at last concluded that it is a call to a Tory meeting of some sort, for does not the great G. Brown tell us that Tories are "base hoonds?" But why the Mail should concur with him and adopt the name for its party 1 cannot fathom. Wilt thou enlighten me, most honoured GRIP?

#### The Difference.

The Mayor, the Mayor and the Aldermen, They yearly demand to be put in again.
The people at that time make regular shout
To put the old Mayor and the Aldermen out,
And whether they're put out or whether they're not,
Not a bit better pleased have the populace got.





### Vennor's Winter.

VENNOR-Here friend, my Almanac calls for Roller Skates!

#### 'Twas ever thus!

I ne'er have hung up skates to sell, Trusting to fickle Nature's law, But when I'd advertised them well And puffed them—it was sure to thaw. Yes, it was ever thus! The Fates Seem adverse to the trade in skates!

Year after year in winter's hours I see my fondest visions crossed. Skates clearly have some mystic power Antagonistic quite to frost! Their presence in my window-pane Turns ice to slush, and snow to rain!

### Currint Ebints.

Me Darünt GRIP:

I thought it wud be too bad entoirely av 1 let the Christmas time be goin pasht widout sindin yez the complimints av the saison, so I take me pin in hand wanet more. Begorra, I wuddn't harly know it was Christmas toime at all av I hadn't lucked in Vennor's Almanick this mornin, for the loikes av this keind av weather in Canady in the middle av winther I nivver seen befoor. Sure it's warrum enough to go fishin, an I dunno fwhat's the raison Misther JACKMAN doesn't be gettin out the Wathertown an givin us all a thrip to the Humber some av these moonlight nights. As he wud make up an excursion to go for a thrip on Christmas Day, I wad be glad to buy a ticket fur meself and NORAH, an plinty more that wud enjie a bit as a picuic at Mimico these warrum days. Sir, I luck down wid contimpt on the man that wud thry to make political capital out av an almanick, and sorra a wan av me wud be the man to blame MICKENZIE's governmint for the mixin an muddlin av the saisons (though CARTWRIGHT does that same wid the finances;) but, the saisons (though CARTWRIGHT does that same wid the finances;) but, sur. I wid jist call your candid attintion, av yez plaze, to the undisputable fact that (whir John A. was in power yez niver saw the month av April comin in the middle av Decimber. An another fact I wid beg lave to pint out, widout mainin to draw anny base inference fwhatsomelever, is, that Misther VENNOR, who makes up the weather improbabilities that causes people to wondher, houlds a situation as a civil engineer undther the prisint Government. Yez can put this and that together av yez plaze, but, as for meself, I think its only a coincidence. It's delighted I am, me darlint, to obsarve the wallopin yez give thin

It's delighted I am, me darlint, to obsarve the wallopin yez give thim bonus-grabbers. More power to yer elbow! Make it extramely hot for the shpalpanes that wid be squazin more money out av us for their fly-away schames av railroads, an us near choked now wid high taxes. You give thim no quarther, an av the rist av me fellow citizens is loike

meself, we'll give thim no quarther aither, nor anny ten cent bit even.

Av course I'm goin to vote for Misther BAITTIE, for Mayor. Thi is the keind av min we want, an I hope yez will give him a gud worrad. Av yez do, he is as gud as elected, an Toronto will have a mayor she can be proud av.

But it was to wish yez a Merry Christmas an a happy New Year that I tuck up my pen, and I mushn't wandther away from me subject. I hope yez'll call yound at me humble abode fwhin yez are out on New Year's day. I don't expect to be at home on Christmas. It was me original intintion at furst to go for a slay dhrive, but av the prisint weather houlds out, mebby it'll be for a shwim I'll go inshtead.

TERRY TIERNEY.

#### To His Friends,

To the Editor of GRIP.

SIR.—I wish it made known to my country consins, this Christmas, that I will not be at home to any cousins more than five times removed, who come to spend Christmas in numbers greater than sixteen, or who

bring with them more than seven aunts or five grandfathers. Also, I have no accommodation for more than twenty-two horses, and if more nave no accommodation for more than twenty-two noises, and it more than seven dogs are tied up in my yard at once, it is disagreeable at nights, especially if, as at present, there is a moor.

I wish also to suggest that I cannot, on Christmas morning, accompany my different relatives to the Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Uni-

tarian, Presbyterian, New Jerusalem, and other churches.

I should like it also remembered that my family cannot well sleep in one garret room, which will only hold half of them, more than three one garret room, which will only note that of them, more than three weeks, and that the cook and housemaid object to sleeping for a longer period on a pantry shelf.

It might also be well to remark that in town we do not bring in (at once, on an average) more than seven pounds of clay on each shoe.

Hoping these things may strike the eyes intended, I am, yours truly,

ONE WHO DREADS CHRISTMAS.

Toronto, Dec. 21, 1777.

#### Letter From a Martyr.

To the Editor of GRIP.

SIR :- I am a martyr-a martyr to tramps-in other words, to itinerant salesmen. Every day not less than thirty ring at my door, call one of us from the other other end of the house, and want to sell us washing machines, sewing machines, brushes, handkerchiefs, blacking, tea, soapshirts, matches, combs, and nineteen hundred other articles, none of which we want. Now, Sir, we walk a mile a day up and down stairs, which we want. Now, Sir, we walk a mile a day up and down stairs, pay for bells, knockers, carpets, outside doors always left open. Am I these people's slave? Are there no laws? Is there no police? Could they not be flogged or something? If I shot one or scalded a few am I legally right? Is it a free country, or am I doomed to the stair and door treadmill for life, or compelled to pay for a substitute? Are there any aldermen? Could they not be put into Penitentiary? Can nothing be done?

A SLAVE OF THE BELL!

Toronto, Dec. 21, 1877.

#### Parkdale-John on the War-path.

Up then rose CLARKE the Chieftain-CLARKE of proposed municipality of Parkdale,

In his eye was the light of battle, under his arm the Globe tucked. All his committee stood round him, equally furious and valiant—Everyone on the war-path—everybody in paint and feathers!

"Toronto extend its limits!" Not a bit of it! not if we know it! Parkdale absorbed in Toronto! Ha! ha! wish they may get it! Most tolerable and not to be endured, high-handed insult! If we enjoy city streets, institutions, and side-walks,
Don't they enjoy those of Parkdale? Question superfluous!

'Streets?' Faugh! bogs rather—filthier than rural side lines!
Police doing nothing to burglars: always not catching them! Fonce doing nothing to burgiars: a tways not catching them? Six or seven steals every night—nobody ever apprehended!

If we use things don't we pay for them? You may just bet on it:
Toronto gives nothing for nothing—never did, nor will, Sir-recs!

We've helped to build up Toronto—now we will build up Parkdale. We want a municipality: more nor that—we intend to have it!

Filthiest of cities, avaunt! ruled by big Pushers and similar! Wretchedly misgoverned mudhole! Parkdale owes you nothing! Grinding enormous taxes from the pockets of your noodle people. But disreputable exhibit of general tumble-down-ness! Parkdale won't have more of you! Snaps her fingers at you, does Park-

Washes her hand of you. If you don't mind will annex you!!
Dirty, tax-ridden, dimly-lighted, burglar-haunted squash-pit!
(Bravo John! Go for them!)

#### Great Expectations.

Why doth the youth expectant stand, And gaze intently at the door, With throbbing pulse and trembling band, As forth the congregation pour?

Behold his joy! the maid he seeks Approaches now, with graceful tread-Long lashes swept her blushing cheeks As thus, in accents low, she said :--

"Pain would I linger at thy side,
"Home now returning--vespers o'er!"
"Oh thanks!" The maiden soft replied, And sweetly-bade adieu-next door!

1878, ST. JOHN'S WARD, 1878, (

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