

# MR. GRAHAM'S FINE SPEECH.

## Members Excluded From Serving on the Jury.

## FAIR TRIAL DEMANDED.

## Dr. Beattie Nesbitt in North Norfolk.

## Mr. Thomas Crawford Replies—Mr. Duff Opens To-day—Legislative Notes.

The Parliamentary reputation of Mr. George P. Graham was considerably enhanced by his speech yesterday afternoon in support of the Government's position on the reference of the Gamey charges to a commission. In the course of an address of an hour and three-quarters the member for Brockville reviewed many of the points already discussed, and paid his compliments to Dr. Beattie Nesbitt in a gentle but effective manner. Mr. Graham's gentle raillery was as a breeze projected into a jaded House continuing a stale debate. The speaker to follow was Mr. Thomas Crawford, who took up many of the arguments previously covered by Opposition speakers. Mr. J. S. Duff moved the adjournment of the debate, which is not expected to conclude before Thursday at the earliest.

On the opening of the House the Speaker announced that he had received notice of a vacancy in the seat for North Renfrew, resulting from the death of Mr. J. W. Munro.

### The Man From Brockville.

Mr. George P. Graham (Brockville), in resuming the debate on the motion to refer the Gamey charges to a commission, remarked that the old home was not what it used to be, for, as a member of the House, his first chastisement by the Opposition had been for even suggesting that the Judges could err. The member for North Toronto (Dr. Nesbitt) had gone too far in his speech, even for an old politician. In referring to the Government as a "cringing, crawling, crawfishing, guilty Government," he had gone beyond what was approved by even his friends, who thought he had the qualities of leadership. (Hear, hear.) The Liberals could not be blamed for his occupying a seat on the back benches; on the other hand, from a party standpoint they would like to see him occupying the seat of the member for Dundas (Mr. Whitney), though they would not like to see that occur, looking at it from the standpoint of the Legislature and of the country. (Applause.) Dr. Nesbitt's references to Mr. Marter were unworthy, and ill-deserved by a man who had been thought worthy of occupying the position of leader, succeeding therein a man who was now a Chief Justice of Ontario, and who had left the House with character unstained, though perhaps with some changed opinions. (Applause.) Mr. Graham read Mr. Marter's letter of denial published in the morning papers, and then added that he believed the present member would never repeat the charge where he could be taken to account for it. (Applause.) Mr. Marter's sin had been in running as an independent, but even doing that against a prospective

leader was not a great sin, for Dr. Nesbitt had himself endeavored to run as an independent in Algoma. Even then, in 1896, Duncan Bole and Cap. Sullivan, the men whom he now condemned so unsparingly, were the chief instruments in endeavoring to get Dr. Nesbitt the nomination.

### A Cry From Macedonia.

Mr. Graham then took up Dr. Nesbitt's connection with the recent by-elections in the three Norths, and made a running comment of happy raillery as he proceeded. He read a letter addressed by Dr. Nesbitt to Conservatives throughout the Province on December 26th last—a Macedonian cry, as it were. "You know the strenuous efforts that we are putting forth to beat Ross," began the letter. "That is the preamble to the bill," Mr. Graham remarked amid laughter, and added:—"I presume that that statement was a work of supererogation." (Laughter.) "North Grey and North Perth have been Conservative constituencies. We are certain to win them with the work being done." How? Mr. Graham asked. By speeches, by arguments? No, but by appealing to every concession to help them. "North Norfolk has always been Grit. If we win it we will have a majority in the House. Can you not get enough subscriptions from a few of our friends to pay the expenses of one of your best workers to come up and help us in North Norfolk for a week? You have someone in your county whom you all look upon as a great hustler. Get him to come up and help us."

### Opinion From the Inside.

As a result Dr. Nesbitt had secured hustlers to help him. The Windsor World, which claimed to be "the only Conservative paper in Essex County," commented on the return of John Harmon and others, after having helped in North Norfolk, and said if they were the men whom the Conservative leaders employed, Mr. Whitney would never fill the place now occupied by Mr. Ross. On Mr. Harmon's return he had flourished a large roll of bills, the outside one being a twenty, and had treated many people, spending \$40 at one hotel. On this point Mr. Graham thought there should be an inquiry, to find where Harmon got the \$40. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Graham went on to say that justice was a two-edged sword, and if it did not find its victim in the accused it must recoil and find it in the accuser. "I do not propose at this stage," he proceeded, "to either hold up the Provincial Secretary as a martyr to the people of this Province, or to condemn the member for Manitoulin as a bad man. On the other hand, hon. gentlemen should not hold up the accuser as a hero, and take him around the country until they hear the evidence." (Applause.)

### Excluded From the Jury.

Mr. Graham proceeded to point out that the Legislature as a jury was already prejudiced, and most of the members would have to step down under challenge. Dr. Nesbitt was already off the jury for cause; he would not be allowed to act on any jury in Ontario under similar circumstances. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Downey had quoted poetry, putting in Mr. Gamey as the hero; he had expressed an opinion, and he must step down. (Applause.) Mr. St. John would have to step down for having expressed an opinion, and he had inoculated his whole neighborhood, as shown by the cheers at the Toronto Junction banquet in honor of Mr. Gamey. Mr. Crawford had replied to the toast of "Our Leader" at that banquet, and had said that "the green youth from the north had proved too well seasoned for the keen Alecks of Queen's Park." Therefore he was unfit to be on the jury. (Applause.) In fact, every Opposition member had applauded Mr. Gamey, showing they approved what he said in his charges. Therefore they must all step down. (Loud applause.) He was also free to say that the Liberal members were biassed, and could not