

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Delights of Summering in Halifax.....	2
Struggling and Kicking.....	2
Notes.....	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry - Psalm 121.....	A. W. H. 6
The Canadian Birthday Book.....	Chas. G. D. Roberts 6
To the Far North.....	Albina Murray Rolland 6, 7
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles.....	3
News of the Week.....	4, 5
Religious.....	6
Musical Echoes.....	7, 8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Serial.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12, 13
Home and Farm.....	14

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We doubt if it is universally known that Professor Tyndall, whose "unrivalled power of clear exposition, and of investing abstruse subjects with new interests by the charm of his style and the lucidity of his direction, has rendered him so potent an educator of his generation," is an Irishman.

The case of Baron Lilliere, a Frenchman who desires to become a citizen of the United States, has evoked much discussion in the French Chamber of Deputies. France holds that no citizen of the French Republic can swear allegiance to a foreign power without first obtaining leave from the Government at Paris, but all the same the Baron is taking out his naturalization papers and means to be an American even if he has to remain a Frenchman.

Peter the Great tried to accustom his sailors to drink salt water, so that in case of emergency they would not die from thirst. The experiment, it is needless to say, proved a failure, and caused the death of most of the sailors. Dr. Allinson, writing to the *Weekly Times* and *Echo*, protests against the use of salt by human beings, claiming that it is an unnatural taste that leads to overeating, and that in its mineral state it is positively injurious to the system. Those who do not agree with Dr. Allinson can take his opinion with a grain of salt.

There is no use in disguising the fact that there is vastly more ill humor going in summer than in winter. Vexations that in December, January, February or some other months that are windy or snowclad would scarcely cause a wrinkle in the brow, in June, July, August and a goodly portion of September cause much more demonstration. The prevailing heat is often added to, in fact, by the warmth of those who are any way harassed. Yes, the truth of it cannot be denied, there is much more wickedness of this kind abroad in summer than in winter.—*Philadelphia Call*.

Lake Foo Chang in China now occupies the site of what was once a thickly populated country. About two hundred years ago natural gas was discovered in the district and many borings were made, by some unaccountable means the flame of the gas, which was lighted at the surface, was drawn into the magazine below, causing an explosion such as human beings never before heard. Several millions of people are said to have been destroyed, and the face of the country entirely altered. A correspondent writing to "Iron" asks what precautions are being taken to prevent the occurrence of a similar catastrophe in the United States, and calls for a meeting of Congress to deal with the matter.

It is curious to note the scarcely veiled pleasure taken by a large portion of the American press in the depreciation of Great Britain. The Philadelphia *American* indulges in a leader a column long, which it heads—"The First Milestone in England's Decadence." Well, prediction has never been a very safe business, and it is quite possible "the end is not yet."

France is beginning to understand that brute force, backed up with shot and shell, is not always the most effective colonizing and civilizing agency, and she has, therefore, made a new departure with respect to her domain in Senegambia. Schools under government control have been established through the country, in which the sons and daughters of the Chiefs and principal men are being educated free of expense to their parents. The experiment will unquestionably prove a success, and the next generation among the Senegambians will look to Paris as their Mecca.

Little by little France and Germany are adding to their military encumbrances. The French Chamber of Deputies has passed the Mobilization bill, which will put more troops in the field. A bill has also been prescribed proposing the formation of a corps of 30,000 men, especially to protect the Italian frontiers in the event of Italy assisting Germany against France. On the German side much military activity is reported at Metz. The enlarging of forts and evolutions of troops are proceeding constantly. Work is conducted at night by the aid of the electric light. The balloon department is experimenting with a view of trying the destructive effect of dynamite hurled down upon forts from a balloon.

We have received a copy of the *Youth's Companion* containing a story entitled "Indians Devils," which was written by Professor C. G. D. Roberts, of King's College, Windsor, and which was awarded the second prize of \$250. The story relates the experiences of the professor and his friend while on a canoeing expedition in the Squatook country, in the heart of the north New Brunswick wilderness, and describes the manner in which they defeated the purposes of two evil eyed Indians, and disposed of a panther or Indian devil, which was prowling near their camp. Aside from the thrilling adventures, the chief charm of the story lies in the graphic description of the scenery, and in the natural and graceful manner in which new topics are introduced.

New Yorkers are becoming fastidious as to their dining saloons. They are no longer satisfied to step down into the gas-lighted cellar apartments, which, however artistic the appointments or well-cooked the dinners, always had a close, oppressive feeling, and tended to make the diners bolt their meals, in order that they might hurry into the sunlight. Now the fashionable restaurants are in the top stories of high buildings, which are made easy of access by elevators. Here, in the eleventh or twelfth story, the anxious business man can take in the surrounding view, and while he is enjoying his dinner can gaze upon the Brooklyn heights or Bartholdi's Statue, or upon some other interesting view. Soup seasoned with sunlight scenery should stimulate the stomach, and prepare it for heavier and less easily digested food.

The Philadelphia Ledger's recapitulation of its local obituary columns for the last six months savors of the Old Testament chapters. It shows that longevity, so to speak, is not dying out in the big town of Delaware. The mortuary announcements of persons who had lived to or beyond the advanced age of eighty years numbered 466, of whom 181 were men and 285 were women. A similar record for the first six months of 1886 contains a total of 448. The demise of four male and four female centenarians is recorded thus far this year. One of these reached the age of 104 and another 105. How many well preserved Philadelphians there may be who are buoyantly scaling their twelfth or thirteen decade does not appear. But it is comforting to thinking that the old gentleman who heard the historic peal of the Liberty Bell is still numerously among us. The statistics likewise show that the Ledger has a clientele old enough to know a good thing when they see it.—*N. Y. World*.

The Manitobans have evidently not been frightened by the disallowance of their Railway Acts on the part of the Dominion Government. They have long suffered from the high freight charges upon the C. P. railway, and have set themselves the task of breaking this monopoly, cost what it may. Judging from a perusal of a pamphlet recently issued by authority of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, Manitoba wheat is handicapped in the British markets to the extent of fifteen cents per bushel, as compared with wheat grown upon the same meridian in the United States. In addition to which, the Manitoba farmer has to pay enormous freight charges upon lumber and coal, which greatly increase the cost of production. The chief point at issue is, whether the monopoly clause in the charter of the C. P. Company, which forbids the construction of lines to the U. S. boundary, can, constitutionally, be enforced in Manitoba. Its application to the Northwest Territories is admitted, but in Manitoba, which had previously obtained a provincial charter, it may or may not be applied.