

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Spain now has a baby Queen five years of age. The little sovereign has been familiarly known by her relatives and attendants as the Infanta Dona Maria de las Mercedes. Little heeds she now the cares of State.

In the French Republic is an aristocracy, among whom the commanding of steamships is looked upon as the highest calling. It is therefore not surprising to find French steamers commanded by Marquises and Viscounts.

The women of Ontario who have lately been enfranchised are to be sworn before being allowed to deposit their ballots. No doubt this will deter many of the more sensitive among them from availing themselves of their voting privileges.

Paris controls the fashions in ladies' dress, even the belles of Yeddo now order their costumes to be made up by Parisian dress-makers. Japanese papas may find the bills somewhat long, but orientals seldom mind expenditure upon such a luxury.

Cetewayo, who will be remembered as having had in the near past a brush with John Bull, and who offered to settle the difficulty by making Queen Victoria his 501st wife, died at his home in Zululand, and his body now lies unburied in an African hut, around which his 500 stricken widows daily perform the solemn funeral ceremonies.

The party papers are warning their respective supporters against being caught napping in the event of a dissolution of the Dominion Parliament. It may be well for both sides to be prepared for a political struggle, but as yet we have seen nothing that would indicate the near approach of an appeal to the people.

Cologne has followed the example set by London in holding a culinary exhibition. Dainty German dishes are displayed so as to tempt the appetite of the Teuton visitor. Doubtless they would not be found palatable by the ordinary Anglo-Saxon, but the German Empress has evinced her appreciation of their excellencies by awarding several prizes.

With Upper Burma in her possession, Britain holds the landward key to China, and to this fact the merchants of Rangoon are fully alive. Railway communication with the Southern provinces of China is now rendered practicable, and with its completion British enterprises will establish new marts of trade hitherto untouched.

The absence of the laboring classes is a notable feature in American churches, and it is creditable to the ministers in this city that the same cannot be said of the working people in Halifax. The Bible teaches us that all men are equal, but in the neighboring Republic the moneyed distinctions are even more marked than are the class distinctions in this city with its many aristocracies.

Liverpool, Sydney, Louisburg, Baddeck, Margaree, and Port Hood, are all crying out for railway facilities. Now Shelburne comes to the front and puts in her claim for railway communication with Yarmouth. If the government do not soon formulate a comprehensive railway policy, how can they expect support from the electors residing in these constituencies? The Provincial Government mayhap is short of funds.

During the recent political campaign in Britain, several Indian delegates addressed large gatherings of people upon the unsatisfactory manner in which the Indian government was being carried on. At the Scottish Corporation dinner, the Maharajah of Johore claimed for British subjects in India, both native and white, the right of being represented in an Indian Parliament. Home Rule for India will next be on the tapis.

The nineteenth century is rich in novelties, and offers a premium to the quixotic crank who inaugurates a new departure. Fashionable clubs are now recognized as necessities, but the disciples of Morpheus have conceived the idea of establishing in New York a club for sleepers, to which the drowsy members may resort for an occasional nap during the day. Such a club would be popular in other cities not a thousand miles from New York.

Secessionists is the name now given to the Parnellites by the Irish Loyalists. The secession cry during the Southern rebellion in the United States aroused the most patriotic feelings in the breasts of Republicans and Democrats alike. Old party lines were, for a time, forgotten, and the preservation of the Union became paramount. If Parnell seeks to redress Irish grievances by unconstitutional means, he will be stigmatized as a secessionist and rally against him all the forces still loyal to the Empire.

The Board of School Commissioners at its last meeting passed a resolution to the effect that any request for an increase in a teacher's salary, at any other time than during the month of October, shall be considered a resignation. Now, in the school room, we can imagine a teacher, while annoyed by an apparently unnecessary number of requests to go out, declaring to his pupils: "If anyone asks me again before recess, I will punish him." Such an edict, issued to children by a person who is supposed to administer discipline, might, though it may appear arbitrary, be justified by circumstances. But a threat to punish a simple request is certainly a most summary and unnecessarily harsh way of dealing with the intelligent men and women of the teaching profession.

When the Hon. A. G. Jones speaks of the fishing trade of Nova Scotia, he speaks of that whereof he knows, and his words are entitled to consideration. The following extract, taken from the report of an interview with Mr. Jones, which appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, should be borne in mind by Nova Scotian fishermen:—

"We have lately been making an effort to open new markets, and sent one cargo to Portugal, which may leave a fair freight, but the quality of fish is not what is wanted in those markets. They want it hard-cured and light-salted, whereas our Bank fish is not hard and light salted. These markets will take off any quantity of fish if we can only give them the right quality. To show the extent of these markets—since our cargo arrived at Oporto, about 25,000 to 30,000 quintals have arrived in the same market from Newfoundland, Gaspé and Norway—all of which will be retailed there at fair prices, on account of their hard cure, while our correspondents recommend us not to make any further shipments of Bank, on account of its soft quality. It is evident that if our fishermen would make shorter trips, not salt so heavily and give two or three days more sun, they would make their fish hard enough for any market, and make them worth forty to fifty cents per quintal more. They got into the way of making them soft for the American market, and now they will have to change and make them hard like the Newfoundland and Gaspé fish; if this is done I see no reason why we should not be able to conduct a large business with Portugal, Spain, and the Mediterranean ports."

TWO GREAT QUESTIONS.

British statesmen are now called upon to deal with two burning questions, the solution of which may involve the Empire in untold difficulties. But their solution nevertheless must be sought at an early day in order to avoid results which might prove disastrous to the best interests of the British people. Home rule for Ireland in some form must sooner or later be granted. We do not by any means believe that Britain will ever grant to Ireland that