

# THE CRITIC:

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## THE CRITIC,

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The striking miners of Durham have voted in favor of 12,000 of their numbers resuming work. The miners employed in the Mine Owners Association Pits will continue on strike until a compromise is effected. Many factories and iron foundries will now be able to go on with their interrupted work, since the strike is practically over.

Paul Conrad, the real head of that American demoralizer, the Louisiana Lottery, "acknowledges that since the people of the State so signally interfered with his plans, his game is up." Both he and the former stockholders retire with large fortunes and comfortably calloused consciences. They seem more happy than their countless dupes, who regret the good money so absolutely thrown away.

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good." Since Chili has "got mad and won't play" at the Columbian Exposition, little Hawaii has put in a timely request to have the space assigned to Chili reserved for her. The Hawaiian exhibit will now have a special building devoted to it, and will doubtless be a most attractive feature of the Fair. Our Halifax friends who visit Chicago must not omit inspecting the exhibit of this little volcanic kingdom.

The discussion in the House of Commons over Intercolonial Railway matters points to the folly of continuing to manage this great railway system from Ottawa. The vexatious delays consequent upon having the head-quarters of the railway nominally in Moncton, but really in Ottawa, are well known to shippers, and the time must soon come when the Government will realize that if the railway is to be run upon commercial principles its management should be at Moncton, or at some other point upon the line of the railway, and not hundreds of miles from one of the extremities of the road.

Lieutenant-Governor Carvell, of Prince Edward Island, has refused his sanction to a measure endorsed by both branches of the Legislature, in which the abolition of the Legislative Council was the main feature. It appears that this measure was endorsed by the Legislative Council upon the condition that half the members of the Assembly should be chosen by electors possessing a property franchise, and further that this condition should not be altered excepting by the sanction of two-thirds of the members of the House of Assembly. The condition is said to be *Ultra Vires*, and hence Governor Carvell's action.

A lamentable event has been perhaps the result of imperfectly understood English. The foreign residents of China have been in terror since the massacre of the Chinese at the Western mining camp. A large meeting was held at Shanghai when a resolution was forwarded to the Chinese Government praying that "such steps as may appear desirable" be taken to suppress the presence of missionaries. The too obliging Imperial Government immediately captured a prominent rebel and slowly sliced him to death as a warning to evil-doers. The horror of the movers and supporters of the resolution at this barbarous punishment may be imagined.

A fashionable, and far from objectionable, Boston fad is for ladies to attend the gymnasiums. All wide-awake schools are recognizing the need of physical training for girls as well as for boys, and the appearance of many of our public school children attests the benefit they have received from the vigorous exercises. Perhaps the regular gymnastic work is not necessary for those healthy, rosy-cheeked daughters of Halifax, who think so little of "a tramp to Bedford," or a little jaunt around "the Point," and bless their bright faces. We consider that the time thus spent in open air exercise is one of the best investments for their future health and happiness.

The Halifax fish laborers' strike, which a few days ago threatened to assume a serious aspect, has pretty well fizzled out. 150 men engaged by the merchants in curing fish upon the wharves being dissatisfied with the irregularity of their employment went out on a strike, but labor being plenty and the merchants not being unwilling to deal fairly with their employees, fish making is proceeding as usual and the strike has collapsed. So far as one can judge the system under which the fish-makers were employed was an antiquated one, and we are glad to note that the merchants have decided to pay their employees a fixed sum per week, irrespective of the condition of the weather.

The British "Mary Ann" of non-cap-wearing principles is again in trouble. "The Domestic Servants Trade Union" made a demonstration at Hyde Park the other day. The special grievance is with the maid-of-all-work, who complains that, after entering service in some inferior lodging-house, it is impossible for her to "better herself," as, if she leaves, the mistress will give her no character. If this complaint be a just one we hope a reform will be instituted. The Union's plan of campaign is to advertise such employers and to boycott them in the future. The union also aims to provide board and lodging for servants out of employment—a most commendable undertaking.

Memphis is a proud city and deservedly so. To-day the great trans-Mississippi bridge will be opened. The bridge has been a work of time, for thirty years have elapsed since the work was begun. The vast undertaking has met with many reverses, and it is a wonder that even the second generation of its projectors have seen its completion. The length of the structure is within 105 feet of 3 miles. It is built solidly of masonry and steel and is a triumph of mechanical engineering. As it is the only bridge of the kind between St. Louis and the Gulf, it is expected that it will divert much trade to this quarter, and be a stimulus to commerce throughout the valley of the Mississippi.

Last week two Chinamen went to Boston via the S. S. *Halifax* and, despite the fact that they were British subjects they were not allowed to land at the Hub, and were sent back by the authorities to Halifax. According to the United States law John Chinaman is rightly excluded from the land of liberty, but as the law is not explicit it is probable that some diplomatic correspondence will take place over the arbitrary treatment of these John Bull Chinamen. The subjects of Queen Victoria, irrespective of their nationality or color, have rights, and it ill becomes the authorities of a mixed nationality, such as the United States, to make such an invidious discrimination. This incident will probably be heard of again.

Ever since the resignation of Dom Pedro, and the establishment of a Republic in Brazil, there has been dissatisfaction with the central government, and several Brazilian provinces are watching the case of Malto Grosso with a lively interest. The Province of Malto Grosso, which includes one-seventh of the whole Republic, has now revolted and intends to set up its own government. As the rebellious province is only accessible by the river Paraguay, the Brazilian Government is at a loss how to proceed. The neighboring Republic of Argentina has been appealed to, but as Argentina is not particularly friendly to Brazil, and as she stands a fair chance of annexing the troublesome state, it is not likely that she will solve the difficulty satisfactorily.