

We are in receipt of the official programme of the St. John Summer Carnival and Electrical Exhibition, a pamphlet of nearly 100 pages, exceedingly well got up with a bright-looking pink-tinted cover. There are, we suppose, few travelled Halifaxians who do not know St. John, but if there be any, the illustrations of the Carnival Programme will reveal to them a city boasting many handsome streets and buildings. As stated in the introductory notice "the recent union of St. John and Portland has created a new city," to which, only fearing that the space of ten days allotted to the Carnival is somewhat too long a period, we wish every possible success in its festivity.

We have been favored with a letter over the signature "Civis," which is by implication not a little complimentary to THE CRITIC. "If it were possible," says our correspondent, "to issue THE CRITIC as a daily evening paper, I am of opinion that an important service would be rendered to many citizens of Halifax." We cannot give publicity to what "Civis" says of the three existing evening papers of the city, and can only tell our correspondent, with thanks for his appreciation, that whilst THE CRITIC endeavors to the best of its means and ability to fulfill with respectability some of the functions of a Weekly Paper, it would not only be quite beyond our scope to attempt a daily publication, but that success would be very doubtful had we the inclination. It is, we fear, precisely the tone which "Civis" deprecates, and which we could not by any possibility fall into, that would always ensure the preference of the mass of the public for our evening contemporaries. Our correspondent will further be good enough to take notice that any extended use of his communication would, under any circumstances, have been precluded by his not furnishing us with his name.

It is painful to read the efforts of some of our contemporaries to belittle the celebration of Dominion Day. In some cases it seems to be a matter of satisfaction that it is comparatively little observed in Halifax. There is something rather small in harking back to the antagonism of two and twenty years ago. Federation is not only an accomplished, but, notwithstanding here and there smouldering embers of discontent, a successful and a glorious fact. Says an Exchange:—"The prejudice against Confederation is chiefly political, and the man who has not sufficiently cooled off in twenty-two years to permit the flag (the red rag as a Pictou paper puts it) to float over his building on the anniversary of his country's birth as a nation, is too small-souled to live." Without going quite so far as our contemporary—for doubtless there are many who believe in the soundness of their objections—we cannot but agree with another, which says:—"We must all learn to bear and for-bear—to agree to differ as all men have to do on some points. To be a Canadian should be a bond of union outweighing all other differences, which should yield before the great work of uniting to build up our magnificent country." Surely it is time that all sections of Canadian citizens should take this lesson to heart.

"As to geography," continues Prof. Delitzsch, "the discoveries of Ur Casdim, the birthplace of Israel, and lately of Sepharvaim, rank among the most precious results of Assyriological research. All these new and welcome discoveries, extending also to non-Babylonian towns, nations, tribes, and names, have been collected in my book entitled 'Wo lag das Paradies?' Want of space does not allow me to cite illustrations. As for the science of religion, the resurrection of Assyrian and Babylonian antiquity has created a new epoch, especially for the religion of the natives of Western Asia. It has not only prepared the way for a deeper and more thorough understanding of the nature and character of the Babylonian and Canaanitish gods, such as Ashtoreth, Nergal, Marduk, Tammuz, and Moloch, and of the subordinate divine beings, such as the cherubim, but it reveals also the history of Hebrew religious feeling, opinion, and belief. One of the most striking and interesting coincidences between the Hebrew and Babylonian peoples is their equally deep consciousness of man's sin, guilt, and need of divine deliverance. I am fully persuaded that the time will come when we may make from the Babylonian and Assyrian clay literature a collection of Babylonian hymns and prayers which shall present a surprising agreement, both in form and in contents, with the Psalms of the Old Testament."

Lord Herschell, in a recent speech in London on the connection of the Colonies with the mother country, said that "the union which existed involved no serious burden on the Colonies, it did not hinder their free and natural development, but gave them a tie with the historic past. It made them subjects of the British Empire, whose good name and noble traditions were as much theirs as ours." This is an utterance to all appearance harmless enough, but the use of the word "subject" seems to have a disturbing effect on the sensibilities of one of our contemporaries, which is excited to say "Canadians have no intention whatever of remaining subjects of the British Empire. That position may be satisfactory to the Kaffirs at the Cape, or to the conquered races of India, but it will never satisfy the aspirations of the Canadian people. We will be citizens (mark the words, Lord Herschell!) of the British Empire with all the rights and privileges of full and free citizenship, or we will have no lot or part in your greatness!" The ordinary use of the word "subject" really does not seem to be worth all this demonstrativeness. The American citizen, we know, has a bumptious dislike to the term, but a British subject, knowing himself to be in the enjoyment of a truer freedom than the citizen of any republic on earth, has no captious objection to it. Indeed, we doubt if the question were mooted whether any intelligent American would seriously object to being called a "subject" of the United States. Every man is a subject of the laws and constitution of the country to which he belongs, and the term has no significance of thralldom or even real subjection.

On the 29th of July, 301 years ago, the great Armada which threatened so imminently the subversion of the Protestant Religion and the liberties of England was finally dispersed. To-day is our nearest day of publication to the Anniversary, and we have been favored by the Australian poet, Douglas Sladen, with a copy of his minor poem on an episode in the great fight. Mr. Sladen has a longer poem which comprehends the action generally, and a portion of that which we give to-day, but it is too lengthy for our poetical column, in which we give the earlier and shorter one. It was a daring enterprise of Mr. Sladen to have essayed a theme immortalised by Macaulay's stirring lines, some of which we reproduced in THE CRITIC of 26th July last year, but none who have read Mr. Sladen's poems will think his boldness unjustified.

The Press very generally agrees in lauding the humanity of the Kennel Club of London in deciding against the "cruel habit" of cutting dogs' ears to improve their appearance, but we do not hear a word of protest against the far more atrocious and useless cruelties of vivisection. The following paragraph is going the rounds:—"Professor Hartidan, of the West Virginia university, is conducting two interesting experiments in vivisection. In one he made an incision into the stomach of a dog, in which he placed a fistula tube from the outside. When a vessel of milk is placed before the dog and the animal drinks, the fluid runs out through the tube as fast as it is lapped up, and the dog's thirst is not quenched. When the tube is stopped, so that the milk is retained in the stomach the animal becomes satiated, showing that the seat of thirst is not in the throat, but is a demand of the entire system." As everyone knew this long ago, the experiment is one of wanton cruelty, and if Professor Hartidan was ignorant of the fact we should not be disposed to rate him very highly as a Professor.

Is not the following from the *Militia Gazette* well worth the attention of the Educational Authorities, not only of Halifax, but of some others of the chief towns of Nova Scotia? "In the interests of the future of the militia of Canada, scarce any more useful work could be done than that amongst the boys of the public schools, so carefully carried on in several cities. The adjutant of the Twelfth Battalion, Capt. J. T. Thompson, has achieved surprising results with the boys of Toronto, and now Capt. . . B.T. Macaulay, of the Sixth Fusiliers, is to the fore at the head of a well drilled class from the High School at Montreal. Capt. Macaulay has applied for, and will no doubt receive, permission to form a cadet corps at the High School, and this will be directed by him. Upon stipulated conditions as to the constitution of the drill companies, and the uniform to be worn, the Militia Department will furnish free to universities, colleges, normal and high schools, the arms and accoutrements necessary for instruction; and the Department will also detail an instructor to attend at each school, at the public expense, for one month in each year, or longer if required.

Amidst much discussion of Evictions, Home Rule, the imprisonments of Irish members, the general agitation of leagues, and the protracted warfare between landlords and tenants, little is said about the remedial measures which are slowly but surely altering the condition of the country. Mr. Gladstone's Land Act, the more extended law of the succeeding Conservative Government, and the enlargement of the latter, have enabled the provident tenant to acquire the land which he, and perhaps his ancestors, have cultivated. The purchase of land by a small annual charge is of course a slow process, but still it eventually makes a man and his heirs their own landlords. Doubtless more money will be provided when the present fund is exhausted, so that no occupant whose landlord is willing to sell need remain in a condition which discourages his efforts to improve his holding. These facilities have been supplemented by several Drainage Acts which provide employment for the peasantry, and will add a large area of land to the cultivable soil of Ireland. Railways, the construction of which is also provided for by an Act of Parliament, will throw open a number of isolated districts, and lead to the transfer of an unsettled population from congested districts to thinly settled regions. It would seem that measures such as these are likely to do more for the future prosperity of Ireland than all the ill-fated agitation, whose chief result is the artificial popularity of a number of demagogues.

The *Militia Gazette*, a most reliable Canadian military organ, has the following comments on the recent successes of the Massachusetts rifle team at Wimbledon. Without in the least grudging honor where honor is due the observations may serve to mollify a slight sense of disappointment at the non-success of the English teams in the competitions:—"The victories achieved last week by the team of Massachusetts riflemen in England have puzzled not a few who have not taken all the circumstances into account. The contestants have not been by any means on even terms, for the Massachusetts men have on their Springfield rifles wind gauges and aperture sights, while the Englishmen used plain Martinis, with open sights and no wind gauges, and were thus at a considerable disadvantage. The teams consisted of twelve men on each side, and they fired at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each, with two sighting shots allowed. The standing position has been used at 200 yards. The scoring has not been remarkably high on either side, averaging for the five matches fired last week 88 points for Massachusetts, and 82 for the English teams. In the friendly match in which our Wimbledon team competed on Thursday last, and in which plain Martini rifles were used, the ten Canadians averaged 90.6 points per man, and the team of Cambridge volunteers 86.5 points. This last match was, however, with the kneeling position used at 200 yards—an advantage of perhaps three or four points per man over the standing position."