

THE CRITIC.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

During the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1884, the Government of the United States paid off \$161,000,000 of the public debt; during that ending 30th June, 1885, \$68,000,000. The total of amounts paid into the Treasury during the past fiscal year is \$321,000,000.

The Mahdi still appears to be enjoying vigorous health, and so far, has escaped the promised smashing. His temporary success has emboldened him, and he now meditates an advance upon Cairo. The extinction of Christianity and the suppression of newspapers, are his avowed objects.

The *Montreal Witness* has recently issued in pamphlet form a valuable work, entitled "The Riel Rebellion." To those desirous of obtaining a brief, but comprehensive account of the late troubles in the North-West, we cordially recommend this work. The *Witness*, in all its enterprises, is fully abreast of the times.

It seems that in some parts of the State of Illinois, the rural population is at a stand-still. Some countries have retrograded both in population and wealth since 1870. Farmers' children abandon their homes there for the growing places in the far West. Yet the value of land has risen, and the big stock-raisers continue to enlarge their already immense estates. They believe that cattle-raising will pay where wheat-raising does not.

The fickleness of the French character is fully illustrated, in the colonization policy of the nation. France has been, and still is, the pioneer among the colonizing powers; but, while her success at the outset is unquestionable, her people lack the patience and perseverance which are required in the successful settlers. Frenchmen love France, and they will not long remain away from their beloved native land; so that the inherent love of country prevents the permanent colonization of different lands by the French.

There is weeping and gnashing of teeth among the latter day saints in and about Salt Lake city. The American people have determined to wipe out the foul stain of Mormonism as they did that of slavery, and their efforts to secure this result have caused anxious forebodings among the followers of Brigham Young. Mormonism, says the *New York Herald*, must go. This may be true, but the trouble is the Mormons must go with it, and as they cannot secure a foothold in Canada or Mexico, and have no immediate prospect of converting the American people to their way of thinking, their situation naturally perplexes them. If there were only some way of transporting them bag and baggage to Warren's paradise at the North Pole, they might be safely allowed to carry out their Mormon principles, without fear, so long as the ice barrier remains, of others being contaminated.

The unveiling of the statue of Darwin in the natural history museum of London was attended by a large concourse of people, including the leading divines of the several evangelical denominations. Darwin's theories may have awakened the bitter antagonism of the religious world, but the ability and manliness displayed by him in the support of that which he believed to be the truth, was sufficient in the end to overcome the rancour of the theologians.

A short time since, an American barque entered the harbour of New York, having on board several Chinamen, the same having been shipped as seamen at Calcutta. As the American Government has adopted a prohibitory law with regard to the celestials, these poor Chinese sailors were immediately seized and thrown into jail, and were only released upon condition that they embark upon the first outward bound ship upon which they could obtain employment. "O Liberty! O Liberty! How many crimes are committed in thy name."

Some American papers show a great deal of interest in the 1,300,000 French Canadians of Quebec. They say it is useless to call the French one with the Scotch, English and Irish, and that unless they are one with them, there is no unity in the Dominion, etc., etc. Now, how is it about the negro population in the United States. There are five times as many colored people in the United States as there are French in Quebec. Are they "one" with the descendants of Scotch, English and Irish? If not, is there any unity in the American Republic?

The views expressed in the columns of the CRITIC relative to the Anglo-Russian question have been fully sustained by the reports of the boundary commissioners which have recently been published in a Parliamentary Blue Book. Pendjeh is now acknowledged to have been in the debatable lands, and its seizure by the Afghans was quite as much a violation of existing treaties as was its subsequent capture by the Russians. The knowledge of these facts made us feel confident that war between Great Britain and Russia would be averted.

The honest business men of New York City have for many years laboured under a great disadvantage, inasmuch as they were constantly brought into competition with merchants who did not scruple to enter their goods under false invoices. It is estimated that through this illegal practice the United States Government has been the loser in Customs duties to the extent of Fifty Million Dollars. When such dishonest corruption is encouraged by Government appraisers, it is time for honest men to rally round the standard of the President who evinces a determination to punish all such malpractices.

On the first of July the Torrens Land system came into force in Manitoba and the North-West. By this system the Government takes the responsibility of examining and certifying titles. Once a property comes under its provisions there is no future peril to the possessor through flaws of title, and conveyance becomes simplicity itself. Property owners may adopt the system at their option, but there can be no doubt that when once understood, it will be preferred to the system hitherto in vogue. This method of transferring land obviates the necessity of much annoying legislation, and we hope some day to see it adopted in the older provinces.

Has oxide of iron, or iron itself, an invigorating effect when applied to the wood of decrepit trees? This question is now being discussed by the rural papers in the State of New York. Two years ago, on a farm near Clyde, N. Y., several large rusty iron spikes were for some purpose driven into a very old, partially decayed apple-tree, that for years had been almost entirely barren, and seemed to be fast exhausting what remained of its vitality. The spikes were left in its trunk, and the result was, that last year it bore a magnificent crop of fine, large apples, and the abundance of its blossoms this year give promise of a repetition of the marvel. The owner believes that the rusty spikes restored it to youthful vigor and fecundity. Of course he is experimenting on all the old apple-trees in his orchard.

By the Dominion Franchise Bill, which is now virtually the law of the land, several thousand persons in Nova Scotia, who have hitherto been debarred from their privileges as free-born citizens, will now enjoy the full exercise of their birthright. Under the new law, all male persons of the full age, who are

Owners or occupiers of real estate (of the actual value of \$150 in country, \$200 in town, and \$300 in city); or

Tenants of real property in the annual rental of \$2 per month, or \$20 per year; or

Sons of real estate owners, in country, town or city, resident with parents, in cases where the property is of sufficient value to qualify; or

Mechanics or others whose actual income or earning from any trade, profession or calling is \$300 per year; or

Fishermen, the value of whose nets and boats is \$150—will be enfranchised.