

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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In the absence of a responsible Executive, the public business in the United States Congress is deputed to innumerable committees and sub-committees. As a result of this, the sessions of Congress are prolonged far beyond their proper limits. The Congress which met in December last is still sitting, and for aught we can see, will still be in session on the Fourth of July next.

The German Empress presents each of her subjects who has remained for forty years continuously in the service of the same family with a gold cross, accompanied by an autograph letter. If Queen Victoria had announced at the commencement of her reign that she would do as much for her subjects in this Province, Her Majesty would never have been called upon for even one memento of the kind.

British officers stationed at Suakim find that sporting in the vicinity of that place is somewhat dangerous. Not long ago, Lieut. Jenkins, while out stalking antelopes, came suddenly in sight of two of these animals which he stealthily approached. Just as he was about to deliver his fire a rifle bullet whizzed within a few inches of his ear. The antelopes had been tethered by some rebels as a decoy. It is needless to say that Jenkins returned to Suakim without loss of time.

With all its natural advantages as an agricultural country, Italy has never produced one tithe of the agricultural products for which her soil and climate are adapted. During the past decade Italian farmers have turned their attention to dairy farming, and the result is that Italian butter is now being sold in the markets of India. These markets have hitherto been held by English merchants, and have been supplied by butter-makers in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

Thanks to the members of the Grange, Arbor Day is to be generally observed throughout the Province, but we trust that its observance will not be like to that in Halifax last year. To have city laborers to prepare the ground, place the trees in position, and fill in the earth about its roots at \$1.25 per day may be a charity to the unemployed, but we fail to see how this is to inculcate a love for trees in the minds of the scores of school children standing idly by. Let the boys do the work from beginning to end, then we may hope for beneficial results.

English capital and English skill are no longer confined within the British Isles. In every quarter of the globe the power, the wealth of British capitalists, and the skill of British workmen is known and appreciated; but it is only in recent years that continental nations have acknowledged British superiority. It is significant, however, that Italy, which since being unified, has steadily advanced towards a first class power, has now become the new field for British enterprise. Sir William Armstrong is about to establish at Pozzuole, on the Bay of Base, in the Gulf of Naples, extensive works for the manufacture of guns and armor-plate, to be used in the Italian navy.

According to the Journal of the Imperial Federation League, published in London, G. B. lectures upon the Colonies never fail to draw large audiences, while lectures upon Canada always ensure a packed house. We should have liked to hear one of these latter, especially that portion which dealt with the Provinces down by the sea. If the compilers and publishers of geographies in Ontario can say all that is to be said of the Maritime Provinces in three pages, we are likely to be disposed of by a lecturer in one or at best in two short paragraphs.

This is certainly not a sentimental age. The church at Williamsburg, Virginia, in which George and Martha Washington attended service, is sadly in need of repairs. The church contains the font in which Pocahontas was baptized, but even this fact has not loosened the purse-strings of patriots living in the "old Dominion." In the light of history the lapse of a few hundred years is thought to be a short space of time, but had Pocahontas lived in England, or George and Martha Washington been notable residents of Europe, the church containing the baptismal font in which the former was baptized, and in which the latter worshipped, would not go to decay, if American money could save it.

TRANSFER OF IRISH LANDS.

On Friday last, Mr Gladstone introduced his measure for the purchase of agricultural holdings in Ireland. He pointed out that the agrarian difficulties which had disturbed Ireland for so many years, were in the main due to the absenteeism of the landlords. The landlords were, generally speaking, Englishmen, and the responsibility of the troubles rested upon the English people.

"Oppression married to misery had hideous progeny. Crime had been endowed with vitality to perpetuate itself, and hand down its miserable inheritance from generation to generation. Union itself was obtained against the sense and wish of every class, by wholesale bribery and unblush-

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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 proving or disproving 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.

Ruled paper is now said to be bad for the eyes. Ruling is certainly necessary, for with a little practice all persons may accustom themselves to write in perfectly straight and equi-distant lines upon unruled paper.

In the year 1777, considerable interest was manifested in an announcement that six stoves had been completed in Philadelphia. The annual produce of the stove foundries in that city is now valued at \$4,000,000, and the industry supports about 12,000 people.

Some officials in the army propose to brand all recruits, in order to make the discovery of deserters more sure. We fancy that if such a custom were once introduced, recruiting would cease. Tattooing is too much a relic of barbarism for this nineteenth century.

Astronomers have discovered two comets approaching the earth, the one being now at a distance of 400,000,000 miles, and the other 450,000,000 miles. They will be visible to the naked eye about the first of May. Although they are heading for us at a pretty high rate of speed, we feel no alarm, and propose to publish just as usual.

This year too, will, we fear, pass away without witnessing any united action on the part of Cape Breton's parliamentary representatives. Gentlemen, allow the first Cape Breton Railway to be built where the government will. Do not make yourselves appear ridiculous by agitating in favor of one route or another before you have any certainty of getting a sufficient subsidy for any.

The preponderating greatness of British commerce can, perhaps, be best judged by a comparative view of the vessels of different nations. The merchant marine of the world numbers 43,692 sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 12,867,375, and 8,394 steamers aggregating 6,719,101 tons. Britain owns nearly two-thirds of the world's steamer fleet, according to tonnage, and over one-third of its sailing fleet, or, more accurately, 4,452 steamers, with a tonnage of 4,714,746. Add to these figures the fact that her commerce is much more widely distributed than that of any other power, and you will see how like a vine with its soft but powerful tendrils she has overgrown the world.