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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 sentiment expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving 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.

There must be some mismanagement and want of forecast in the P. O. Department, when there have been no five-cent stamps at the Halifax Office for at least (to our knowledge) a week. Of course it is not a matter of very great importance, there being no unbearable hardship in using a two and a three; still, it should not be.

We have frequently referred to the rabbit pest in Australia, and the extent of the nuisance seems still to be on the increase. One station in New South Wales, for which the Government received in the form of rental \$14,000, was last year a charge upon the provincial treasury to the extent of \$55,000, expended in exterminating the rabbits. A reward of \$125,000 is now offered to the inventor who discovers some means for ridding the country of these prolific bunnies.

We suppose it is pretty well known by this time that the European news furnished to the cis-atlantic press is unreliable. "Europe," says the *British American Citizen*, "is in a state of chronic unrest, because London correspondence and New York newspaper bogus cable despatches are manufactured to suit the American market. There is no industry in which so much care is taken to suit the customers' taste as this of newsmongering, and none in which so much humbug and ignorance is displayed in the treatment."

It would appear from the following description of their new infantry arm that the French have not been idle in equipping their forces with an improved weapon. "The new Leble gun is described as very effective. It is a repeating rifle, throwing a small steel-pointed ball, which is propelled by a newly invented smokeless powder of great power. The balls revolve at the rate of 1,000 revolutions a minute, and are effective at a distance of a mile and a half. In recent tests bullets at 500 yards penetrated a brick wall eight inches; and, it is said, that at a mile they will pass through a man as easily as at ten paces. The cartridges are so small that a soldier can carry 200 rounds. One hundred and sixteen rounds has heretofore been the maximum." This sounds formidable, but there are some disadvantages about a very small bullet, and we feel the want of details as to the effects at short ranges. Very likely, however, the new rifle is an effective arm.

A collection of Irish music, magnificently bound and illuminated, is to be sent to Mr. Gladstone from New York.

No wonder that the people of Cuba yearn for Home Rule, and covertly advocate annexation to the United States. Within the past ten years Cuba has paid into the Spanish Treasury about \$376,000,000 and even the loyal Spanish residents can scarce plead an excuse for maintaining a union, the advantages of which are so unquestionably one-sided. Cuba has a population of one and a half million persons, and soon she, with her white and colored citizens will, if Uncle Sam keeps a bright look-out, form part of the great American Republic.

When the Comte de Paris issued his manifesto we remarked that the indifference with which it was treated by M. Grevy's government indicated, possibly, a consciousness of strength in the Republic. The result of the late crisis, which might have been so formidable, goes to confirm our idea that republican institutions have really acquired a firm hold on the mind and sentiment of France. We partly based this opinion on the fact that a whole generation has now nearly grown to years of maturity since the overthrow of the Empire.

There is sometimes a good deal of—as it seems to us—unnecessary and offensive fuss made by the street-car conductors in hurrying up passengers' fares. When the cars are over-crowded, as they often are, it is frequently a matter of quite a little time and manœuvring to get your fare passed up, or to navigate to the front to drop it into the box yourself, or to get change, and as far as our observation—which is pretty continual—goes, passengers are for the most part careful enough, and as expeditious as is at all necessary. The street cars are, on the whole, well conducted; let their authorities guard against any offensive nonsense.

The Gloucester Fishery Union recently passed a series of resolutions, one of which reads as follows.—"Resolved, That we neither use nor desire to use Canadian waters for practical fishing, but simply ask that our commercial rights there shall be defined by our own Government, and when defined, maintained." The contrast between theory and practice strikes us as being somewhat marked. However, the Gloucester Fishery Union evidently thinks itself quite virtuous and magnanimous in insisting that "we will cheerfully conform to whatever construction *our own* (italics ours) Government shall place upon existing treaties and legislation!"

The coal beds of China are five times as large as those of all Europe, while gold, silver, lead, tin, copper, iron, marble and petroleum are found in the greatest abundance. Owing to the prejudice of the people, the mines have never been worked to any extent, it being the popular belief in China that if these mines are opened thousands of demons and spirits would come forth and fill the country with war and suffering. Some day China will rise and cast off her superstitions, and there are signs now visible of the coming awakening. When she does, she will be a great power in the earth. Who is it that says the world will be one day Teuton, Slav, or Mongol?

The Dartmouth ferry boat crossing from that city on Friday, encountered a boat with two small boys who had lost their oars, and were benumbed with cold. The ferry-boat is not the handiest of craft to manœuvre, but she managed to effect a rescue after some time, during which the most remarkable part of the business was the vociferous excitement of the male passengers, twenty of whom shouted themselves hoarse with as many different exhortations to the poor boys what to do. The scene excited some calm speculation on the part of some ladies who were in transit, as to whether as many of their own sex would have lost their heads, and behaved as ridiculously as the Lords of Creation—such specimens as were present.

Bad taste is by no means confined to the individual. Public bodies frequently commit themselves to it, and sometimes whole communities are inoculated with perversion. The Board of Admiralty often misnames Her Majesty's men of war "in a way we despise," but the most rotund instance we have become aware of for a long time, is the craze that has seized the people, legislature, and premier of New South Wales to change the name of their colony to "Australia." One is at a loss to understand the state of mind which not only admits, but fights strenuously for, an idea so innately and patently inappropriate. The *Times* devotes an amusing and sarcastic leader to it, and the other great colonies seem hardly to know whether to take the presumption as a jest, or to be seriously angry about it. Perhaps N. S. W. will by-and-by return to her senses.