

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The heartrending descriptions that reach us as to the starving condition of the dwellers in Labrador are such as should call forth the practical sympathy of our people. Mere regrets that the fisheries have proved a failure, and that the hungry wolf lurks beside the cabin door in that ice-bound land, will not ameliorate suffering or prevent fatal results. Halifax is always to the front in charitable deeds, and her record in this respect is worthy of emulation at the present time.

Meerschaum, which is the German word for sea-foam, is a soft earthy substance resembling chalk. It is found in veins on the shores of the Baltic and the Levant, and is prized by smokers on account of its absorbing the nicotine. Heretofore, Pesth and Vienna have been the principal meerschaum pipe markets of the world, but as a deposit of meerschaum has recently been found upon the shores of the Pacific in Oregon, we may soon expect to hear that Portland meerschaums are for sale.

Those who have visited Italy, and remained for several days in the old city of Rome, have probably seen the wolf which the Romans have kept in honor of Romulus, the founder of the city. From time immemorial, it has been their custom to exhibit a representative coyote, and the people residing in the neighborhood in which these nobles have been imprisoned, have been obliged to listen to their howling without being able to make an effective protest; but time has done its work, and the wolf has been removed, thus breaking another link in the honored traditions of the ancient city.

Mrs. J. B. Martin and Mrs. J. F. Brook, of Cincinnati, have announced themselves as the second and third persons of the Trinity, and have succeeded in inducing a number of otherwise intelligent men and women to acknowledge them as such. Hitherto, the worship of these ladies has been carried on in secret, but the whole affair has recently been exposed in the newspapers, and has attracted much attention, on account of the high position of the parties concerned. Enthusiasts have before to-day been known to lose their heads; but in this age, one can scarcely understand how religious fanatics could so easily be deluded, unless it be that the elite of Cincinnati are afflicted in no ordinary degree by insanity.

Those who know Digby as a summer resort, and who have been loudest in their praise of the scenery, the boating, etc., have always shivered when they related their experiences of bathing in the icy waters of the locality; but the enterprising citizens do not propose that a small matter like this should interfere with their town becoming the Newport of Nova Scotia. They have dyked in a pretty, retired cove within a short distance of the hotels, and erected commodious bathing houses on its shores. Here, the visitors can bathe at any hour of the day; and as the water is calm and exposed to the rays of the sun, it is much more enjoyable, and less likely to remind bathers of the freezing point in midsummer.

Batoum, which the sick man of the East passed over to Russia was, according to the stipulation of the Czar at the Treaty of Berlin, to be a free port "essentially commercial," but Emperor Alexander has changed his mind, and once more Batoum is to be classed as one of the great fortresses on the shores of the Black Sea, and foreign vessels are prohibited from entering its harbor. So far as commerce is concerned, it makes little difference whether the port is "free" or not, but the persistent manner in which Russia continues to ignore treaty obligations is of great moment. Britain should send her fleet into the Black Sea, and so teach the Muscovite that treaties which were ignored by one party should be considered void by the other.

The British press, in discussing the extradition treaty between Great Britain and the United States, strongly condemns the article in which it is stated that no fugitive criminal shall be surrendered "the crime in respect of which his surrender is demanded be one of a political character. This clause is certainly capable of a varied interpretation. A misguided fanatic may deem it for the good of the Empire that Westminster be destroyed, or for the Republic that the Capitol at Washington be demolished, and may claim under this article, that as his crime is of a political character, he can not be extradited. The treaty we want is one which will allow both Great Britain and the United States to deal with their own criminals; and if Uncle Sam will but agree to this, we will give him a bond to send back to the Republic all the bomb-throwers that now find it convenient to cross the line.

UNDERVALUATION AND COMPROMISES.

The difficulties which have grown out of our present customs' regulations, and the evident injustice under which honest importers suffer by reason of frauds being compromised, have caused many persons to examine more closely the existing system, and it is probable that reforms will speedily be brought about. According to the present law all dutiable goods are taxed according to the invoice or the appraised value, the customs'

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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 his 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 judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Four tea ships, with an aggregate cargo of 3150 tons, are now on their way from China to Vancouver, B. C., the terminus of the C. P. Railway. The transhipment of this tea across the continent will leave \$62,000 in the country, and this is but the commencement of a trade capable of almost unlimited development.

President Cleveland has had backbone enough to veto a number of pension bills sent up to him by Congress. He has thus saved the United States an needless outlay of \$120,000 per annum, which a well known financier declares to be equivalent to a capital saving of one million dollars. Cleveland deserves to be elected for a second term; and if he desires the Presidency, will have it without doubt.

Next year, the Prince of Wales is to visit India and Anstralia. It has been suggested that His Royal Highness should take the Western route to the East, travelling from Halifax to Vancouver by rail. If the Prince concludes to come this way, he will be able to land a second time upon the same place in the Halifax Dockyard that he did upon his first visit, this being marked by a granite block suitably inscribed.

The Anglo-American Cable Company have made a strong bid for business. They reduced their rates from one shilling to sixpence per word and as a consequence, cablegrams increased 110 per cent. Before the day of Roland Hill, the penny post for letters was regarded as preposterous, but who dare say that cable messages will not yet be forwarded at the rate of a penny per word.

The Emperor of Austria, the Czar of Russia, and the Kaizer of Germany, are to hold a reunion on the 8th of August. Diplomats look with suspicion upon these royal meetings, and eaves-droppers will be on hand to give to the press and public information which they have surreptitiously gathered, and which the progress of events will prove to have been without foundation. The three Emperors should be allowed to meet, kiss and part without being under surveillance. If Alexander, who is 41, and Francis Joseph, who is 56, are inclined to mischief, Emperor William, who is now in his 90th year, may be trusted to keep them in order.