

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

1 50 PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPY 3 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER 29, 1886.

{ VOL. 3.  
No. 44.

## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

<b>EDITORIAL.</b>	
Peace or War.....	2
The Palestine of the New World.....	2
The Progress of a Movement.....	2
Enterprising Truro.....	1
Notes.....	1
<b>CONTRIBUTED.</b>	
Poetry—My Country.....	7
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
Tit-Bits.....	3
News of the Week.....	4, 5
Religious.....	6
Items of Interest.....	6
Egyptian Divine Myths.....	7
Vitality of Toads.....	8
Our Cozy Corner.....	8
Wedding Rings.....	8
The Proposed Messina Straits Tunnel.....	8
Industrial Notes.....	8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Serial.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12
The Maritime Patron.....	13, 14

## THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
BY  
CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 3 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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 judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Democratic France has expelled her princes, on the ground that their presence endangered the peace of the Republic. One of these princes, the Duc d'Anmale, has presented to the French Institute of Art his magnificent estate of Chantilly, with its palace, containing works of art, valuable books, etc. Truly, the Orleans Prince has behaved more generously to France than did France to the Orleans Princes.

The surprise which people naturally feel in the fact that sleep-walkers seldom meet with accidents, will be greatly diminished, when it is understood that a somnambulist is never, so to speak, sound asleep. He is sleeping only so far as part of his cerebrum is concerned, which accounts satisfactorily for the immunity from injury enjoyed by those who leave their beds at ghostly hours and aimlessly roam about the house.

The growth of virtues or habits is no less real than is that of matter possessed of actual life. An absolutely truthful or untruthful man does not become so by an instantaneous step, nor does it follow that, because he is the one, he cannot be the other. Truthfulness is a principle recognized by all as a cardinal virtue; but unless it be practiced in every day life, it gradually degenerates until the individual, at one time distinguished for this virtue, finds that habit has unconsciously made him a liar.

The common origin of mankind is much more strongly marked by the universality of his superstitions, than they are by ethnological resemblances. Belief in the power for injury of the evil eye is found in all peoples from China to Peru, while the potency of a red hand stamped on walls to counteract its influence, is believed in by tribes as distant from each other as the Arabs of Palestine, the Red men of America, the Hindoos of India, and the aborigines of the Australian continent.

It appears illiberal to choke off Chinese immigration by a poll tax of \$50 on each Chinaman coming into the country, but facts are stubborn things, and cannot be ignored. Chinese labor displaces white labor; and unless we desire to have the celestials come in and occupy the land, we must check their immigration from the outset. The white population of British Columbia and California has already experienced the evils arising from Chinese cheap competition.

The Michigan mill-owners are selling out their denuded timber limits, and disposing of their mill machinery at a loss, as since the placing of the export duty upon Canadian lumber, their occupation is gone. Every dog has his day, the Canadian miller now has his.

The somewhat harsh provision of English law which gives almost everything to the eldest son is curiously illustrated by the case of the Earl of Durham and his brother. The two are twins, but one was born two minutes earlier than the other. The one is called the eldest son, and inherits a princely income. His twin-brother has an income about one-tenth as large.

The blowing of locomotive whistles within the limits of Montreal has been discontinued, and the railway authorities assert that the practice was quite unnecessary. There are some towns in the Maritime Provinces, along the line of the I. C. Railway, in which night is made hideous by the unearthly tooting from the engines of arriving and departing trains. The resident, as well as the travelling public, would sleep better if the nuisance referred to were abolished.

When Hanlan won the championship of the world, Canadians were naturally proud of their oarsman, but the claim which he now makes to the world's championship is so unreasonable and unmanly, that his countrymen feel rather ashamed than proud of the Canadian sculler. Hanlan delayed visiting England for so long a time that Beach became disgusted and refused to race him under any circumstances, whereupon Hanlan claims the championship.

French travellers and Government officials have a peculiar habit of deprecating in a wholesale way everything that is British. A French editor who recently visited Gibraltar when the *Gascoigne* touched there with Gallic authorities on board, tells us the "old Gib" is nothing but a piece of lace-work, and that its 700 guns are only fit to make a row and go ping-pang. Most of them are disabled by rust. He does not consider the Rock could resist a naval attack for more than a few hours.

The phenomenal growth of great Western cities, such as Chicago and St. Paul, has diverted public attention from the rapid increase which has been made to the population in Atlantic cities. Boston, which now has 400,000 inhabitants, has more than doubled its population in twenty years. Philadelphia, which twenty years since boasted a population of 600,000, now contains a round million; and New York, the giant city of the continent, which in 1865 contained 700,000 inhabitants, now has a population of nearly two millions.

In a dictionary printed in 1737, full of quaint things, is the following curious note about Hull, in Yorkshire. "This Town was famous for its good Government; and thence rose the Saying, called the Beggars' and Vagrant's Litany. From, Hell, Hull and Halifax, good Lord deliver us; Hull, for the severe chastisement they met there; Halifax, for a law of instantly beheading with an engine those who were taken in the act of stealing Cloth, without any further legal proceedings, being probably more terrible to them than Hell itself."

The preparations which are being made upon all sides for the next Dominion Elections are supposed to indicate that they will be brought on before another session of Parliament. We have no means of ascertaining the intentions of the Cabinet, but we do not believe that the elections will take place before next summer or autumn. While it is well for both parties to be prepared for the struggle, it is not worth while neglecting business for the next eight or ten months in order to see the return of certain candidates.

The recent disturbances in the towns along the Yangtze River in China, in which several missionaries lost their lives and the Christian converts suffered persecution, was caused by the injudiciousness of the Bishop of the Province, who used yellow tiles in completing the roof of his Cathedral at Chung-King. In China, yellow is the Emperor's color, and yellow tiles can only be used in Imperial palaces. The first act of the mob was to demolish the Cathedral, after which the Catholic and Protestant missionaries were driven from the place.

There are, no doubt, many capable officers in the British army; but when the Duke of Cambridge, commander-in-chief, asserts that, as a rule, officers lack the essential qualifications and information upon military matters which their profession demands, he has opened the flood gate for a torrent of criticism upon the manner in which young officers are now trained. So far as we can judge from personal observation, there is no profession or calling which demands as little time and attention of the person engaged in it, as does the army. If officers utilized the time at their disposal in self-improvement, the commander-in-chief would have little to complain of.