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Our Ottawa correspondent has some jocular remarks on a recent lecturer who has discovered the temperature of the "Inferno" to be the opposite of that popularly ascribed to it. Southey, in his "All for love, or a sinner well saved," a poem which mixes some fun with very striking and powerful ideas and descriptions, places the throne of the Prince of Darkness in hyperborean regions, and there is considerable grandeur in that and some other passages. Southey is in these days consigned to an oblivion much more absolute than he deserves to have incurred.

The Prince of Wales now figures in a new character—as senior "Admiral of the Fleet" This naval rank corresponds with that of Field-Marshal in the army. The word "Honorary" is marked against the Prince's name, and the status, of course, means no more than does the name of the Queen at the head of the Army List. It is a mere revival of a tradition of Royalty. There are three substantive officers of the rank on the active list; Sir Provo Wallis, Sir Charles Elliot, and Sir Alfred Ryder, and the former is, *de facto*, only an honorary retention, the veteran second Lieutenant of the *Shannon*, being, we believe, in his 97th year. The next to succeed will be Admiral Sir Geoffrey Phipps-Hornby.

The fact is not generally recognized that Liverpool, Eng., is almost as near the centres of production in Canada as are the centres of consumption in the United States. The last few years have also witnessed a complete revolution in the matter of ocean carriage. As Sir Lyon Playfair recently showed in an address to the electors of Leeds, whereas an ocean steamer of 3,000 tons, formerly required 2,200 tons of coal to carry 800 tons of freight, now on the same ocean voyage with improved furnaces and engines only 800 tons of coal are consumed in the carriage of 2,200 tons of freight. Halifax is now as near to the centres of population in England as it is to the centres of population in the neighboring republic.

If the particulars of the demonstration to receive Lord Ripon and Mr. Morley in Ireland are given with even approximate correctness, it would seem to embody an array of influence, lay and cleric, Catholic and Protestant, professional, commercial and majestic, exceeding that which recently welcomed Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen. It is impossible to rely on Irish news published by the general Canadian press, and distrust of its truth always lingers until it can be checked by the comparison of English papers of different shades of opinion, but we are inclined to think the details given cannot be much overestimated, and unless so an evidence of the success of coercion, unknown at present, turns up when Parliament meets, we should not be inclined to offer very heavy odds on the policy.

The Democratic Party has braced itself together to frame and endeavor to push through a tariff reduction bill calculated to give effect to the recommendations of the President's message. Some important articles are proposed to be put on the free-import list—notably lumber, wood, coal, salt, fish, some agricultural products, and wool, but every one of these will be opposed by some section of the States whose special industry would be touched, and it would be sanguine to hope for a broader result than a compromise. These facts are ingeniously dovetailed by a portion of the press, into an assumption of knowledge of what hopes were raised in Sir Charles Tupper's breast by the proposed measure of offsetting his assumed inability to obtain a recognition of Canadian claims, and of what he said on the subject, &c., &c., of all which it is extremely unlikely that the said press knows anything whatever.

The *American Magazine* for February is a pleasant number, and most of the illustrations are charming. Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley has in it a very interesting article on "The Inland Ocean of the North Hudson's Bay." Edgar Fawcett's very clever novel, "Olivia Delaplaine," advances to a crisis, and "In the Heart of the Sierra Madre" is breezy and agreeable; but perhaps the most suggestive article occurs in "Timely Topics." It discusses and advocates the establishment in the United States of a School of Diplomacy. The main argument used by the writer seems a thoroughly comprehensive one. "Would not," he says, "trained diplomats be better qualified than untrained ones to undertake duties requiring tact and special knowledge?" There is such a school in Paris, and its Professors are among the first statesmen of France. It certainly does occur to us that the United States, less than any country in the world—partly from their natural advantages, partly from the uncompromising astuteness of their public men—stand in need of special training, but easy-going and blundering old England might take up the hint with advantage, and might so escape future Ashburtons.

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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 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.

The Imperial Federation League held a meeting in the Halifax Hotel on the evening of the 26th ult. The attendance was small, partly, perhaps, on account of the stormy weather. Nothing very definite was arrived at. We suppose, indeed, there is no question fraught with greater difficulties. We noticed some very sensible remarks by Mr. Kenealy, of Louisburg, on the subject, in the *Chronicle* of the 28th.

The *Toronto Mail* seems to have followed the lead of the *Globe* in abandoning the unpatriotic and pessimistic line of policy. It has discovered that the 60,000,000 of American customers asserted by Commercial Union advocates to be so essential to the recuperation of poor paralyzed Canada, are themselves exporters, and much more competitors than consumers, and that a very large proportion of American farmers are groaning under an intolerable weight of mortgage.

At the 34th annual meeting of the Y. M. C. A., held in their building on Saturday last, a letter was read from Mr. J. S. Maclean, who has for 17 years most acceptably filled the Presidential chair of that valuable institution, declining re-nomination. A resolution giving full expression to the regret of the members at the loss of Mr. Maclean's services in that capacity was passed, bearing ample testimony to the great value of his able control and hearty co-operation for so many years, and expressing their gratification that he will continue his assistance and his connection with the Executive Committee.

Lord Carnarvon, probably the best Colonial Minister we ever had, presided at the Sydney banquet with which the Australian centenary was inaugurated on the 26th January. The Governors and Prime Ministers of all the Australian Colonies were present. The following was the chief toast:—"Australia—her trials and triumphs; her future union and progress." Her peaceful and progressive triumphs have certainly been many; her trials—except the inaction of England about New Guinea—so few and so inconsiderable, that "Brer Rabbit" is perhaps the most vexatious of them.