

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC.

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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 judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Charles A. Dana has figured up the value of a man at his twenty-first birthday and sets it down at only \$750. Yet the man himself at that age estimates his value higher than at any other time of life.

So the Bartholdi statue is not, after all, the highest in the world. Mr. William Simpson claims that distinction for a statue at Bamian, in Afghanistan, cut out of the solid rock, and ascertained (through the labors of members of the Afghan Boundary Commission) to be 173ft. high—rather higher, that is, than the Nelson column in Trafalgar square, and nearly 70ft. higher than the Bartholdi figure. This will be bad news for our Yankee brothers, who dearly love to have the biggest possible things, and to "lick all creation."

The German Government would fain stay the stream of German emigration flowing to the United States, but it is powerless to prevent the stalwart Teuton from seeking abroad that freedom from military service which in the Fatherland is now compulsory. Nearly 200,000 German emigrants annually leave their native country, four-fifths of whom find homes in the United States, the remainder settling in South America, Africa and Australia. 2,500,000 Germans are now to be counted without the limits of the empire, most of whom have renounced their allegiance as German subjects and embraced citizenship under the Stars and Stripes or the Union Jack.

One might imagine on reading the details of the horrible crimes which are daily occurring in different parts of the world, that human beings were fast becoming callous to the sufferings and tortures of the victims in such atrocities; but it will be found that, omitting the crimes committed by insane persons, there are always circumstances which prove the perpetrators are not entirely hardened. The recent tragedy at Blois exemplifies this. Here an aged mother had her garments saturated in paraffine oil by her two sons, daughter and son-in-law, and then was held over a fire until life was extinct. The relatives who were tempted to commit this outrage in order to obtain possession of her savings which amounted to 40 pounds, took care that she saw the priest and received absolution before the crime was committed, and during its progress chanted prayers for the peace of her soul. Such cruel indifference to the poor woman's physical sufferings, and concern respecting her spiritual welfare appear almost inexplicable.

Leprosy has during late years prevailed to an alarming extent in the Sandwich Islands. The disease is supposed to have been introduced by a Chinaman in 1848 and hence is known as the Chinese disease. About five per cent. of the population are afflicted with leprosy. The government is now taking active measures to stamp it out, but the people are averse to sending their relatives to the government hospital.

The Cologne Gazette advocates the founding of a large settlement of Germans in Queensland in view of the eventual separation of that colony from England and its annexation to Germany. Such a movement, says the Gazette, is necessary to counteract the tendency of Australia to become possessed of the whole of the south seas. The Gazette overlooks the fact that Germans settling in British colonies soon become British subjects.

We have not the data at hand for giving a full answer to the enquiry of a "Countryman" which appears in another column, but our correspondent is correct in assuming that editors are not the most numerous fraternity in the world. As a matter of fact, in the Maritime Provinces we have but 85 editors, while clergymen of all denominations number about 950. As to the comparative intelligence and power of the fraternity, that is a vexed question upon which it would be difficult for any jury to decide.

It has long been the ardent wish of those who admired the great Duke of Wellington to erect a statue to his memory worthy of the hero of Waterloo. Arrangements have at length been made with Mr. Boehm, an English sculptor of high reputation, to produce and erect in Wellington Place an equestrian statue of the Iron Duke and his noble charger. The corners of the pedestal are to be supported by four soldiers representing English, Scotch, Irish and Welsh veterans as they appeared in Wellington's day.

The New York State Legislature has appointed a committee to consider the question of capital punishment and to recommend some more merciful method of taking the life of a convicted person than that at present in vogue. Hanging has been condemned as a relic of Anglo-Saxon barbarism, while the French guillotine is pronounced as inhuman and uncivilized. The discussion is the outcome of a desire to save from the gallows a woman who killed and fed her husband to the pigs. It is difficult to understand why the members of the legislature should have been so solicitous about the manner in which such a criminal crossed the narrow bridge connecting time with eternity.

Emin Bey, the brave Austrian doctor, who, with his black troops, has been maintaining the supremacy of the Khedive in Equatorial Africa, has through Dr. Junker, the Russian explorer, officially informed the British Government that he is able to maintain his post despite the hordes of fanatical Arabs by which he is surrounded. He can, however, if so desired, withdraw from the country. Emin Bey was Gordon's first lieutenant, and until Dr. Junker's report was published, it was thought that he too had fallen a victim to Musselman ferocity. It is supposed that Colonel Stanley will lead the expeditionary force sent to his relief. News of Emin Bey will now be eagerly sought after.

England has now a new fishery question to settle, which is of serious import to those who dwell along the east coast of Britain, and who ply their calling as fishermen in the North Sea. The British fishermen use surface or drift nets in securing their catches, while the Dutch, Belgian and French fishermen trawl in the deeper waters. The drift nets impede the progress of the trawlers, and these latter have invented a device known as the "devil," by which the surface nets are instantaneously severed and destroyed. Such occurrences, it is said, are frequent upon the open sea, but just how to bring the offenders to justice is the hickory nut which John Bull is endeavoring to crack.

A scheme is being promoted by some French capitalists for the construction of a railway through a tunnel to be carried under the sound from Denmark to Sweden. It is to start from the Ameger suburb of Copenhagen, to the Island of Salthorn, a distance of about five miles, where air shafts would be established, and thence to Limhamn, in Sweden, a distance of about three miles. The depth of water in these passages does not exceed fifty feet, so that the tunnel would not be at any great depth. It is expected that the work would be completed in less than three years. A Government guarantee of five per cent. is sought on the capital to be raised, the amount of which is not yet fixed, and it is possible that the whole sum may be provided by some large houses without coming on the market. The Swedish ports on the sound are shallow, and difficulties occur in the shipment of goods, but as railroad communication now exists between Copenhagen and the Continent of Europe, this submarine railway would bring Sweden into direct communication with the Continent, and a large goods traffic, as well as conveyance of passengers, is expected.—New York Commercial Bulletin.