

The hippopotamus is as surely on the road to extirpation as the buffalo. They are already scarce in the waters that once teemed with them, as they are shot in mere wanton sport, their valuable hides being rarely removed.

Let our boys have a manual training while at school, and we need have no fear of their continuing to despise labour with the hands. A good manual training fits them, if occasion requires, to gain a knowledge of a trade in a comparatively short time, and become skilled mechanics. After all, the great majority of our boys must work with their hands, and youth is the time when they should be trained.

The slovenly habit of writing the day of the week without the word "on" before it, is amusingly illustrated by a paragraph in a contemporary which runs. "Mr. Harrison" (the President-elect,) "and his wife, Wednesday," etc. We respectfully venture a doubt as to whether Mrs. Harrison rejoices in such an unusual Christian name. We know of "Thursday October Christian," of Pitcairn's Island, but we are not cognizant of any lady who has been christened "Wednesday."

Christopher Columbus no doubt discovered America, and is entitled to credit for the pluck and perseverance he displayed, but we by no means believe that he was the first European navigator who crossed the Atlantic, as there is now abundant proof of the Norsemen having visited the shores of America. This fact has recently been accentuated by the discovery of some important papers in the Norwegian archives which throw a flood of new light on this interesting subject.

A correspondent writes to inquire whether we can recommend a safe and paying investment in any joint stock company, and requests that we should answer the same in THE CRITIC. We do not purpose using our columns to boom any investment or any particular company, but if our correspondent, or any other subscriber, wishes our opinion on any stock, or desires to be informed as to safe investments, they can obtain the fullest information by writing us a private letter upon the matter.

Lord Randolph Churchill has again been favoring the public with one of his customary feats of ground and lofty political tumbling, in his sudden and unexpected challenge of the Egyptian policy of the Government. He moved to adjourn the debate, in order to censure the Suakim expedition, when the Government benches were scant, and nearly entailed upon them a serious defeat. His action will certainly not add to his reputation, except for the unreliableness of which he has given such ample evidence.

Canada, the United States and Australia have each built up a Chinese wall, and John Chinaman cannot enter these countries upon the same terms as European settlers. This at first blush appears ungenerous treatment upon the part of enlightened people, but, as the absorption of the Chinese element has been shown to be impracticable, and as their continued increase as a separate and distinct race within the boundaries of the countries named would menace the very existence of civilization, it is evident that the policy of exclusion is not only expedient but advisable.

One man has a memory for dates, another for names, another for events, and so on, but we should like to meet the individual whose memory approaches perfection. There have been many systems of memory advertised, and we now have one of the latest being tested in a practical way, and intend giving our readers the benefit of our experience, be it favorable or otherwise. Anyone can readily understand that a perfect system of memory would be a blessing to brain workers, but so far all systems that have come under our notice have been but weak crutches.

A remarkable new departure in education has been made by no less an authority than the Head Master of Harrow. In future a knowledge of Greek will not be required from students, unless they like it, and unless they intend to proceed to one of the Universities. Any time saved by non-Greek pupils will be devoted to modern languages. The Rev. Mr. Welldone thinks that boys who only want to know enough Greek "to stumble through a passage in the Iliad with the help of a lexicon and a crib, had better leave it alone altogether." This is a strong testimony to the educational tendency of the time.

Notwithstanding the opinion (quoted in last week's CRITIC,) of the Machiavellian designs and purposes of Prince Bismarck and his hatred of England, we believe there is a strong undercurrent of sympathy between the great Teutonic peoples—for, though England is less Teutonic than Germany, we must still class her under that heading. In evidence of friendliness may be noted the accord between the two nations in East African affairs, and the fact that all Germany's recent measures of colonial aggrandisement have failed to induce any diplomatic disagreement. Besides, there are signs that Prince Bismarck's great career is drawing to a close.

The Toronto *Globe* is highly delighted at the Queensland incident. Her "refusal," it says, "to accept Governor Blake amounted almost to a declaration of independence. Obviously there must be a very general desire in Queensland to throw off the embarrassments of the present form of connection with the mother country." The question is no doubt important, but it will not be found to lead to premature declarations of independence as the *Globe* would evidently like to see it. There is, however, some point in the observation that "Independence of the Crown is one thing, and independence of Downing Street quite another."

When we said last week that the words of Mr. Power on the question of "The Future of Canada," were the only common sense we had heard on the subject, we inadvertently did injustice to Mr. Russell, many of whose remarks were entitled to the like appreciation.

Any respectable hog would bristle up with indignation if he could but see the taking-looking pails which are now put up and labelled as pure hog's lard. Lard, indeed! Why most of the stuff was produced on the plantations in the Southern States, and is nothing but cotton seed oil. No wonder that the doughnut of to-day is not up to those which were fried in genuine lard.

It is all very well to smile at superstitious folk, but after all is said and done, how many of us are free from a tinge of superstition. One man will not walk under a ladder which is leaning against a building, another does not like entering a house by one door and leaving it by another, while a third person deems it an unlucky sign to sing before breakfast. These ideas of luck and ill-luck are but remnants of the folk-lore of our far removed ancestors, and serve to give us a faint notion of the veil of superstition which many centuries since overspread human thought. We should like to tabulate and publish some of the folk-lore of our own Province; will our readers help by sending in a description of any which have come under their own observation.

We are in receipt of *Belcher's Almanac* for 1889, a most useful publication, though, as we said last year, it is capable of much improvement in style. There are also some errors which might have been corrected. For instance, Lord Randolph Churchill is not now Chancellor of the Exchequer, nor Lord Iddesleigh (being dead,) Foreign Secretary, nor Mr Stanhope Colonial Secretary, nor Lord Salisbury First Lord of the Treasury. The Majors of the 76th are misplaced in seniority, and there are some slight errors in the Navy, which, however, are not of much consequence, as the commissions of most of the ships best known to us will expire within next year. The *Almanac* is, however, so useful a publication that it is worth while to bestow some pains on correctness.

We are convinced that there is nothing more prejudicial to the constitution of the young than the too early use of tobacco in any shape, and our opinion is borne out by *Science*, which says:—"In an experimental observation of 38 boys of all classes of society, and of average health, who had been using tobacco for periods ranging from two months to two years, 27 showed severe injury to the constitution, and insufficient growth; 32 showed the existence of irregularity of the heart's action, disordered stomachs, cough, and a craving for alcohol; 13 had intermittency of the pulse, and 1 had consumption. After they had abandoned the use of tobacco, within six months' time one half were free from all their former symptoms, and the remainder had recovered by the end of the year."

It is a curious circumstance that at the present time the widow of the vanquished Emperor Napoleon, and the widow of the victorious Frederick, who was the chief figure—after Moltke—in the war of 1870, should at this moment be residing in England, and under circumstances which will be almost sure to bring them into friendly contact as the guests of the Queen. The incident affords a new and striking illustration of the freedom that exists in England, and the advantages it confers on others besides its own citizens. Such a scene as the gathering of this trinity of Royal and Imperial widows in the Palace of the British Sovereign is probably unprecedented in history, with the interesting reminiscences connected with the life of each, which in themselves would form a story that would be more absorbing than a tale of the most skilled romancist.

"If," says the Toronto *Globe*, "the Electors of Great Britain will be sensible enough to recognize that we are not their subjects . . . (and) consent to have the Crown advised in Colonial affairs directly by Colonial representatives, the Crown may remain forever what it should be, the symbol of connection, and an exceedingly valuable institution to all its supporters and subjects." There is suggestiveness in the latter portion of this quotation, but it need not have been based on false premises. The Electors of Great Britain may be pretty safely said to entertain no such idea as that we are their subjects, and the prompt withdrawal of Sir Henry Blake, in deference to the expressed opinion of Queensland, shows how little the Colonial Office desires to dominate. By the way, it is a little curious that the newest Colonies seem to be generally the most bumptious!

The *Kentish Mercury* (Eng.) has a long, and three or four short editorials on the late Col. Duncan, (whose widow is a Halifax lady,) as well as a biographical notice three columns in length. The utmost sympathy is expressed for Mrs. Duncan, and the highest tributes paid to the deceased, whose Christian character, and courtesy to political opponents are strongly dwelt upon. A splendid soldier, as well as an able politician, writer, and scientific officer, his premature demise seems to have awakened unusual feeling. The military funeral must have been a pageant rarely witnessed. The firing party alone consisted of 300 men of the 2nd Batt. Rifle Brigade. The bands were those of the Royal Artillery and Rifle Brigade, and the remains were followed by the Cadets of the Oxford Military College, strong detachments of Horse, Field, and Garrison Artillery, the Regimental District Staff, and a host of officers of all ranks and civilian friends. One of the pall bearers was Colonel S. P. Lynes, R. H. A., who, as a young officer, was well known here 30 years ago, and who was "best man" to a well known gentleman of Halifax at his marriage.