

SNAPS AND SCRAPS.

A Kansas father of twelve children, finding some of the elder ones dissatisfied with their names, resolved that the younger ones should name themselves. The last six children he designated by numbers (1, 2, 3, &c.), and will continue to do so until they become old enough to select the name they consider most pretty and appropriate. Teneocracy, or child-rule, is, of course, the usual form of government in North American households; but the system is seldom so consistently enforced as it is in this Kansas family.

It is strange that American papers have not raised a louder outcry against Mr. Winans, the Yankee millionaire who has the reputation of being the most extensive evictor in Scotland. This individual has for years been turning out his tenants, often in the most heartless way, to make room for red-deer, and he apparently remains quite indifferent to public opinion. In Ireland also the purse-proud upstarts who bought land after the Encumbered Estates Act were, almost invariably, the most oppressive landlords. These people were simply speculators, with no sense whatever of the obligations attending the ownership of land.

The condition of the crofters who are not evicted to make way for grouse and deer is generally pitiable. Their habitations were thus described by an English poet some years ago:—

"Hovel of mud and peat, with plots of ground
Just large enough to grow their owner's oats;
A cow, a lamb, a lean sheep or two, he found,
Some long-legged owls, and perches a pair of goats;
Inside, nor roofs nor walls nor windows sound.
They're worse than huts of Slaves or Czechs or Croats:
So lives and will live, till lairds' hearts grow softer,
That remnant of the feudal days, the crofter."

He pays but little rent, but even then
Body and soul he scarce can keep together:
His wife and daughters have to work like men,
Subsistence hangs on such a fragile tether,
And when the snow comes drifting up the glen,
God knows how they survive the wintry weather.
We fuss about the happy South Sea Islanders,
But have no thought for these half-starving Highlanders."

I was glad to see that my friend "Franc-Tireur's" clever ironic articles on Vivisection had received the approval of so eminent an authoress as Miss Frances Power Cobbo. I am free to say, however, that I was slightly surprised at the strong terms he thought fit to use about a politico-military editorial in a contemporary which has always been kind and courteous to the Critic. That he should think it one of the most respectable articles he ever read, I fear, shows that he skips a large number of articles in one or two of your local contemporaries. His vehement language, I see, has provoked an equally vehement rejoinder from the journal assailed.

Imperial Federation can hardly be hoped for unless certain parts of the empire abate some of their present pretensions. An officer lately wrote from Zululand to *Truth*:—

"You state that the Egyptian officials reach 'the climax of impudence' by charging duty on the 'personalia of their defenders.' I think you are wrong in this. I imagine the honour of reaching the 'climax of impudence' is reserved for the Natal officials, who, not content with levying an ordinary duty of 15 per cent. on officers' private property, charge an extraordinary one of a guinea a barrel for every gun and rifle brought into the colony, so that an officer cannot bring his gun (which he hardly ever travels without) to South Africa without paying about 48s., including harbour dues, &c., for it. What makes this more monstrous is that most of the troops on reaching Natal proceed to form part of the frontier force in Zululand, which country is, of course, quite separate from Natal. Hardly an officer in my regiment has fired a shot in Natal, and yet all have paid this outrageous tax."

What charming beings these Natalians must think themselves, when they expect other people to pay so highly for the honor of defending them!

SNARLER.

HERE AND THERE.

One hundred years ago, you could count the followers of John Wesley upon your finger's ends. It is said there are now ten millions of his followers in the U. S. alone.

At the rate Methodism is progressing, the English-speaking inhabitants of the world will in another hundred years belong to this denomination.

Father care is killing as many men in these modern days as Father time.

Slowly but certainly Canada is becoming a nation. The cement of blood during the past few months has done more to this end than would years of legislation.

We have a great many (too many) political mossbacks to the square acre in this Province.

"Maritime Union." Let the dead and beautiful rest.

It would be like kicking a dead giant to say anything at present about—we say it reverently—"Maritime Union!"

Men got poor returns who array themselves against the inevitable.

We would not say men were "mostly fools," but mostly foolish.

The editorials in the *Chronicle* are racy, hard and conservative.

The *Herald* man wields his pen like a bludgeon, and gives some stunning blows to his opponents.

The *Recorder*, ah me! he is a daisy. You could knock one down with a feather after reading one of his two-edged leaders.

The editor of the *Critic*, ah! I forgot. We will postpone our enthusiasm.

Dull, stupid-eyed care has broken more hearts than love.

How many men live two lives? ay! often more.

Men must have a certain amount of earth, earthy, in their make-up to be successful in human affairs.

No real man can feel pride in a title, that has been obtained at the expense of tears and sorrows of others.

Christianity will make slow progress while human monsters are admired and imitated.

Men that never attempt anything, never make failures.

The principal enemy of the man that ventures to do anything is the man who never does anything.

J. P. G.

AGRICULTURE.

WILL IT PAY THE FARMER?

The special adaptability of the soil and climate of Nova Scotia for the raising of sheep were somewhat crudely referred to by a correspondent of the *Wolville Advertiser*, in a recent number of that journal, but although the style of the article was somewhat abrupt in its tenor, the common sense displayed by its author fully compensated for the want of elegance in its diction.

Many of our farmers labor under the delusion that their deposits in the savings bank will bring them in a better return than would result from any outlay they might make in improving their farms, stock, &c. This is a mistake, and, sooner or later, the agriculturalists and stock-raisers of this country will learn that the best investments they can make are those which immediately affect the wealth-producing powers of their own property.

A farmer who keeps but a small flock of sheep cannot fairly estimate the results which would accrue were the numbers of his flock ten times as great. The truth is that farming in this country is too general; the effort appears to be to secure a variety of products rather than to insure excellence in one or more. The man who fancies that he can make more money by keeping a few hens, a few turkeys, a few geese, a few sheep, and a few pigs, than he can by giving his full time and attention to the care of a poultry-yard will in the end find himself little better off than he was at the outset. If some of our farmers would dispose of their poultry and pigs, and stock their farms with flocks of Southdown and Cheviot sheep, the venture would undoubtedly bring them in a good return, and each year would find them in a better position to take advantage of the experience which they would undoubtedly gain by giving special attention to the care of one class of animals.

We should like our readers in the country to give the Critic the benefit of their views upon this question, and as we have among our subscribers many of the leading Agriculturalists of the Province, we may reasonably hope that this journal may be the means of diffusing much valuable information upon questions which are of vital interest to our farmers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COLLEGE CONFEDERATION.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

DEAR SIR,—The members of the Associated Alumni of King's College hold their annual meeting in the College Hall, Windsor, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., and as they will be called upon to decide upon questions which not only affect the true interests of King's but also the interests of higher education in the Church of England of this Province, it is earnestly hoped that the Alumni will rally in force and prepare themselves to discuss the questions which may be brought forward, in a calm, reasonable, and philosophic manner.

The past year has certainly been the most eventful one in the history of King's. In the outset there was every reason for believing that the much needed endowment would speedily be raised, but this hope was doomed to disappointment and all prospects of raising the fund were destroyed upon the disclosure of the existing state of affairs within the College itself; and so far as the endowment is concerned matters practically stand in the same position as they did at the last Encenia. The question of the confederation of King's and Dalhousie has during the past few months engaged the attention of a number of gentlemen interested alike in the welfare of King's, and in the broader and more liberal education of the youth of this Province, as a result of which a feasible scheme for the union of these Colleges has been carefully prepared, an outline of which will no doubt be presented to the members of the Alumni at their College meeting.

We notice in the last issue of the *King's College Record* an article signed Collegii Amicus, in which the writer calls upon the true friends of King's to use every endeavour to prevent those in favour of College confederation from being chosen as governors for the ensuing year. Would it not be well for Collegii Amicus to allow the members of the Alumni to judge for themselves as to the merits of the proposed scheme of confederation without endeavouring to prejudice their minds against it before it has been submitted for their consideration? For, may it not turn out in the end that the truest friends of old King's are to be found among those who are endeavouring to bring about the union?

SPECTATOR.