

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 contents expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of judging or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after deciding due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The shades of the ancient Emperors of Rome must sink away and hide their diminished shadows in those days of the electrically lighted populace. For the last four years electric lighting has been in vogue in the Eternal City, and oddly enough this old world company has out-stripped the enterprising electricians of our own Continent by the early use of electricity as generated by the Tivoli Falls, which are nearly a score of miles from the city. The copper wire cables are laid through the historic Campagna. In 1883 the first experiment in utilizing water power was successfully made by Fontaine, who succeeded in transmitting a current of one-horse power a distance of 160 feet. As the new line is over eighteen miles long, and the current is estimated at 1200 horse-power, the improvement in electrical affairs is very evident.

It is the fashion to speak of Korea as a petty nation of an entirely inferior type, and the claims of its people to political consequences have been very little heeded. A few facts concerning the little nation will probably be of general interest. The area of Korea is larger than that of Great Britain, and the population is eight times greater than that of Denmark, and is more than double that of Canada. The people speak but one language, and are of the same race and religion. They are particularly accessible in disposition, and are both progressive and industrious. The soil and climate of the kingdom are especially conducive to the success of agriculturists, who rank highly in the social scale. Added to this we find an enlightened energetic ruler, who devotes all his force to advancing the welfare of his nation, and we have a power destined before any great number of years roll by to take a prominent position among at least the lesser nations of the world.

It has been the policy of Great Britain to encourage emigration and the policy of Canada to welcome settlers. But Canada has been particularly favorable to the class of emigrants, and has closed her doors to European riff raff in favor of practical working men and women. The United States have also declined to receive any more of the sweepings of Europe, and declines immigrants of the criminal or pauper classes. This is all very well for the new world, but it is seriously depopulating the European countries of their most valuable people. The industrious, intelligent workmen are keen for emigration; the idle vagrant class of loafers, though often willing, are not eligible for emigration, and so a steady drainage of the valuable portion of the communities goes on. As in all economic questions caused by the movement of population there are two sides to be considered, and it is unprofitable if the good done by emigration to one hemisphere is not quite counterbalanced by the distress of the other hemisphere, caused by the loss of the industrious portion of the population.

One of the most unique reformatories in the world is that at Elmira, N. Y. In many institutions of this kind every effort is made to improve the building, to insure thorough drainage, ventilation, or other objects conducing to the welfare of the inmates. In Elmira, while every effort is made to improve the physical welfare of the prisoners, yet the chief care is bestowed upon the moral development of the criminals, who are sent there for indeterminate sentences. Good conduct and improved morals alone will enable a man to work his way out of this modern prison. The reformatory by no means aims at punishing, but at reclaiming the offenders. Excellent schools are provided, at which attendance is compulsory—a good library is always open, and a small paper, *The Summary*, is published entirely by the inmates. Technical training in various trades is given, and each man who leaves is provided with a bread-winning handicraft. So far the results of this kindly care on the part of the authorities have been most pleasing, and a number of hardened criminals have been transformed into praiseworthy members of society.

Prince Bismarck has begun to realize that his proud confession of his lie and forged telegram, which brought about the war of 1870-1871, has by no means endeared him to the people. France and Germany alike cry out shame on the man who, knowing to the full the horrors of war, plunged two peaceful nations into bloody strife, and cost the lives of 600,000 French and German soldiers who laid down their lives for a "cause" which had "lie" stamped on its face, rises to obscure the glory of the once-loved leader. The bitter hatred which exists between the present generation of both countries is his work—the check given to the forms of moral advancement in both countries is his work—the present division of Europe is due to him. And all the mighty power which this man swayed, or still might have swayed, is—because of the foundation lie—a power for evil. His house has been built on sand, although had he not chosen to openly glory in the fact we would have been none the wiser. As a French writer aptly puts it: "Germany sees in Bismarck a robber-baron of the middle ages, and although she is still flushed with victory, she has lost faith in her cause."

Many who have been planning a visit to Chicago during the World's Fair have been dismayed at the report of the death rate of that city for the past few years. The bad water has doubtless been a potent factor in encouraging and spreading disease, but even that is not sufficient to explain the fact that the death rate of the pork-butt city has been greater in proportion than the death rate in some of our Canadian hospitals, where the people are supposed to be in bad health, while in Chicago they are supposed to be in a nominally healthy condition. Physicians have already begun to estimate the probable mortality in the city during the coming year. The victims will be largely among the victims, for they will suffer, in addition to the usual disadvantages, the discomfort of crowded hotels, improperly aired beds, and the full horror of the cheap restaurants. Typhoid fever is lurking in the city—diarrhoeal diseases prevail at all times, and cholera is not far off. \$5.00. The excitement and improper and irregular food will undermine the constitution. Even the beautiful children's building is looked upon as a hot bed of infectious diseases, and intending visitors are strongly advised to exercise much common sense in matters pertaining to diet and general living.

In his recent book, "Imperial Federation, the Problem of National Unity," Mr. Parkin devotes 7 pages to the very advanced views of Hon. Jos. Howe on the subject. Mr. Parkin publishes nearly in full the outline of Howe's "Organization of the Empire," contributed by Mr. Blake Crofton to THE CRITIC in October, 1888. It is much to be regretted that the finest quotation from Mr. Howe, ending in one of his most majestic periods, is marred by misprints in Mr. Parkin's book. Mr. Howe had suggested that the British Government should invite the colonies to share in the defence of the Empire, and should offer them representation and partnership in return, and had argued that even an adverse decision would be better than uncertainty. "But," he concluded, "I will not for a moment do my fellow-colonists the injustice to suspect that they will decline a fair compromise of a question which involves at once their own protection and the consolidation and security (the last two words are omitted in Mr. Parkin's book) of the Empire. At all events, if there are any communities of British origin anywhere, who desire to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the Queen's subjects without paying for and defending them, let us ascertain who and what they are—let us measure the proportions of political repudiation (expenditure in Mr. Parkin's book) now, in a season of tranquility, when we have the leisure to gauge the extent of the evil and apply correctives, rather than wait till war finds us unprepared and leaning upon presumptions in which there is no reality."