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THE CRITIC,

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The editor of The Chitic 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 partial. Our readers are capable of approxing of 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 New Orleans' massacre is a serious matter. The administration of justice in the United States must be deplorably loose. Italy is intensely indignant over the lynching of the Italian subjects and demands satisfaction.

Parnell has issued a manifesto to his old friends in the United States calling upon them to subscribe liberally to the Irish election fund, and declaring his ability to carry the Irish party through this crisis successfully. Parnell dies hard, but die he must politically, otherwise Ireland's cause is ruined, and it lieth not in the power of one man to destroy it.

After weary years there at length appears to be some hope that the Bering Sea dispute will be settled and that speedily. Both the United States and Great Britain are now in a mood to leave the matter to arbitration and stop quarreling over the question. Nations, like individuals, often allow judgment to be clouded by caprice, and only realize the true state of affairs after long, provoking and sometimes unjustifiable delays.

The latest additions to the British navy, the Royal Sovereign and the Royal Arthur, are intended for very different purposes, and each will be adapted to the duties which it is specially designed to fulfil. The Royal Sovereign is intended to bear her share in a conflict with an enemy's fleet, to engage vessels as ponderous as hersel, and, in conjunction with her consorts, to form, it may be, a point d'appui for a swarm of leas powerful but swifter cruisers. The object of such vessels as the Royal Arthur is to destroy an enemy's commerce, and either to sink or capture any hostile cruisers that are endeavoring to mete out a similar measure to our own mercantile marine. These two types of battle-ships, which will presumably continue to be constructed, ought to be able to cope with the war ships of any other nation.

The prophecy about Zion being ploughed like a field came true some years ago, when a traveller, we forget who—it might have been Mark Twain—reported the occurrence. This has been quite outdone by thelatest sensation in Jerusalem, which has been caused by the introduction of the electric light into a new and flourishing flour mill lately started there. The proprietors, who are Germans, are to be congratulated on this new development. The building in which the light has been introduced is near to the supposed site of Calvary, and close to the Damascus Gate. It need hardly be said that the Arabs and Jews are much puzzled to account for a light in a lamp in which there is no oil, and up to the present time, while gazing with wonder, have been keeping at a respectful distance.

Our Ottawa correspondent, "Dixie." is again at work for us. Next week an interesting budget of notes and comments from the Capital will be laid before our readers.

Another bold adventurer has announced his intention of expediting to the North Pole. We wish him joy over his trip, but most of these Arctic explorers find nothing but cold comfort.

Not so very many years ago illustrated papers were comparatively rare and they were valued accordingly. Now, however, they are plentiful and in many cases of moderate cost, and they are frequently thrown away, burnt or otherwise destroyed by unthinking people who might give unbounded pleasure to their poorer and less fortunate neighbors by turning over to them their picture papers. Children take especial pleasure in pictures, and no one need plead that they have none on whom to bestow their back numbers while there are little people in the world. At hospitals, poor houses and various public institutions such gifts are eagerly welcomed and the supply is nearly always short of the demand. We trust that none of our readers is in the habit of kindling fires with the Illustrated London News, the Graphic, the Dominion Illustrated or any other picture papers. They should always be given away to the most appreciative recipients possibly. The brightness they may take into dull lives can scarcely be estimated.

Canadian literature has suffered another loss. John Lesperance, well known under the nom de plume "Laclede," died at Moutreal on the 11th inst. at the age of fifty fivo years. Mr. Lesperance came to Canada about twenty years ago, he having served on the Confederate side in the American civil war, and left the country upon the defeat of his cause. As a poet, novelist and essayist he has made himself well known. His articles under the heading, "Ephemerides" in the Montreal Gazette were a brilliant feature of that paper for several years. Mr. Lesperance was editor of The Canadian Illustrated News and the first editor of the Dominion Illustrated. He was also one of the twenty literary men whom Lord Lorne selected for the second section of the Reyal Society of Canada. The world did not treat him well. He endured much suffering, and his last years were saddened by great grief and domestic calamity. His mind finally gave way, and after months of mental torture the genial soul of John Lesperance succumbed and passed to its rest.

A great deal of time and ink is being wasted now over speculation as to the soul of man, what it is, where it came from and whither it is going. As this is a matter over which the Almighty has hung a veil, and which in all human probability will never be solved, try how they may, it is time wasted to talk or write about it. The search for the philosopher's atone was not more unsuccessful than this investigation is likely to be. Our wonderful bodies are but little understood, notwithstanding that science has been at work with them for hundreds of years, and is it any wonder that when we come to a phenomena where the scalpel, the microscope and chemical tests have no utility that the "august infinitude" of man is baffled. Interesting it may be, perhaps, to many thus to speculate, and the feeling we have all experienced at times of having lived before, and the belief, co-extensive with the race of man, of the truth of the immortality of the soul leads us into various abstruse theories with respect to it. But however much we may apply our reasoning facilities to this problem we must come to a stopping place far short of the wished-for goal and recognize that One has said, "So far shalt thou go."

To many of our readers our mining columns possess a deeper interest than any other department of THE CRITIC, but there are those among our subscribers who never glance at them, and who look upon mining as a very dry subject. This is a mistake, and we wish to draw the attention of all who take an interest in our Provincial property to the importance of our mines and minerals. To become familiar with what is going on in the mining world ought, therefore, to be of interest to all patriotic Nova Scotians irrespective of personal investments of a financial character. There is no doubt at all that the inture prosperity of our Province depends in a large measure upon the development of our mineral resources. There is no reason why this development cannot be the result of home enterprise and faith in our country, instead of having the all-pervading and wide-awake Yankee come down like a wolf on the fold and make a pot of money before we can look around us. We therefore wish to recommend to all our readers, men and women, the perusal of our mining columns and a general study of the mining interests of Nova Scotia, so that they will be able to express an intelligent opinion on these matters of such deep importance.