

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## THE CRITIC,

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Boston *Pilot* says that the French Canadian priests are "fanatically loyal to Great Britain."

The Boston *Advertiser* says: "Capé Breton is a large, important and naturally rich part of the Province of Nova Scotia; it is, however, apparently neglected by the Provincial Government."

The Young Men's Christian Association in this city is doing a grand work; its efforts to supply strangers with information respecting the services to be held in the various churches are worthy of commendation.

Those believing in the wisdom of two short school terms, such as we have at present in Nova Scotia, are hard to find. As "Reform" said in THE CRITIC two weeks ago, "The question does not admit of discussion; the arguments in favor of one long term are simply irresistible."

France has certainly not gained much from her recent Tonquin campaign. The Delta of the Red River is now the only portion of that country occupied by French troops; and as France was in possession of that strip of land before the commencement of hostilities, it is difficult to see what she has gained by the campaign.

Frenchmen appear to be losing faith in the stability of Republican institutions, but the French love change, and the change from a republican to a monarchical form of government would satisfy this craving. French politics are a curious study, and in them is plainly reflected the temperament of the most ambitious, impetuous and enthusiastic people in the world.

The Spring Hill subsidies were in reality grants for the encouragement of a mining enterprise. For giving as much as the Province possibly can in such grants, our Local Government deserved credit. But if it was advisable to encourage mining in Cumberland Co. some few years ago, why was it not advisable at the last session of the Local Legislature to do something to encourage mining in Capé Breton?

We publish this week a communication upon the St. John Ambulance Association, which should be read with interest by the young ladies of Halifax. We have in this city all the facilities for the formation of a Branch of this Association, and if some of our ladies would move energetically in the matter, we have no doubt that a branch could be established during the coming winter. How few of our girls understand how to administer "first aid to the sick and suffering," and how many of them would avail themselves of instruction, were the means of obtaining it within their reach?

A Moncton paper expresses in no measured terms its disapproval of the municipal tax imposed upon agents doing business for Montreal and Toronto houses. The tax certainly does not prevent these agents doing business in the cities and towns of the Maritime Provinces. It may, however, fairly be asked, why a distinction should be made between local and outside firms, to the detriment of the former. If we tax one, we should tax both.

The wonderful improvement in machinery during the past twenty years has cheapened manufactured goods, but the laborer is still obliged to toil for ten hours per day, without there being any corresponding increase in his wage; and owing to increased power of production, he is forced at oft-recurring seasons, to sit idly by until the product of his labor shall have been consumed. The reduction of working hours would prevent over-production, and obviate the necessity of enforced idleness.

The breeds of English horses have not been kept up to the high standard formerly aimed at. It is estimated that there are now in Great Britain and Ireland 3,000,000 horses, and it is said that not 10,000 of these would be found serviceable in the cavalry or for the artillery should war break out. At present 4,500 horses are used in these services, but at war strength 22,000 would be required. The question which is pertinently asked is, where can suitable horses be purchased?

The three-cornered fight which has been going on among the politicians of Newfoundland, has created much interest in Canada and the United States. With the Protestants of the colony split into two opposing factions, the Catholics looked forward to an easy victory, and would have undoubtedly gained it, had not the Protestant leaders effected a compromise. Denominationalism is always a bitter ingredient when introduced into politics, but in Newfoundland it seems to exert a most potent influence.

The crops in the south of England have been safely harvested, and show a good return, especially in wheat. Oats and peas are below the average. In Ontario the spring-wheat crop has been almost ruined, and the potato crop seriously damaged by an unusually wet autumn; but the fall-wheat is an excellent crop, estimated at fifteen million bushels. In the United States the wheat crop is estimated at four hundred million bushels, a decrease of 113,000,000 from last year's crop. American speculators expect the price of wheat to range from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel; last year the average price was 78½ cents.

A discouraging characteristic of our age is the precocious proclivity of young children to evil. Our daily newspapers are now constantly reporting instances of mere boys and girls committing acts that furnish conclusive evidence of a degree of maturity in evil propensities which ordinarily are looked for only in adults hardened in moral depravity. United States dailies especially are often replete with accounts of children defying parental authority which they ought not to think of questioning, and setting themselves up as their own masters and rulers. The evil is largely traceable to the neglect, on the part of parents, of the serious responsibilities which rest directly upon them.

The papers on the French drama, the closing one of which appears in this issue of THE CRITIC, have been read with interest by many of our subscribers, and have been commended on account of their perspicuity and easy style. The writer of these papers is a young lady well known to Halifax society, and her taste for literary work would indicate that a new departure has been taken by the young women of to-day. The ball-room may have its attractions, but literature offers greater charms to those who have the patience and perseverance to seek them. Esma has done well, and she should not allow her pen to rust.

The following extract from the London *Post* of a recent date will be of interest to the many friends of Col. Duncan in this city:—

"In connection with the reorganization of the Egyptian artillery, recently commanded by Colonel F. Duncan, R. A., now the Conservative candidate for the Holborn District, it has been decided that the following is to be the establishment for the four batteries of that branch of the native army:

"Horse Battery—142 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, 95 horses, and 12 mules.

"1st and 2nd Camel Batteries—150 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, 20 horses, and 80 camels; also six mules. This strength will be for each of the two batteries.

"Depot and Garrison Battery—324 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, 35 mules, and 3 horses.

"Owing to the exertions of Colonel Duncan, whilst connected with the Egyptian army, the artillery branch of that force was brought to a high state of efficiency, this fact having lately elicited the special notice of the Khedive. Colonel Duncan's successor, Colonel Wodehouse, is using every effort to complete the organization of the Egyptian artillery."