

therefore, be necessary to establish throughout Upper Burmah strong military posts, and to have in readiness flying columns to move hither and thither as occasion demands. The Dacoits and many of the more peaceful inhabitants in the villages now have fire-arms in their possession, and these will have to be appropriated by the Civil Government. But Britain never relies entirely on force for maintaining a foothold in a country like Burmah. Roads, railways, and telegraph lines will need to be constructed, and as these will give employment to many laborers, they will direct the attention of the people to new and more profitable industrial pursuits than have hitherto been attempted. The Dacoits or armed bandits, who are the terror of the country, would form excellent material for the civil police force; and General Roberts, appreciating this fact, has already taken steps to induce them to lay down their arms to accept the more honorable position of guardians of the public peace. The disarming of the people in a country where ferocious wild beasts are numerous, appears almost cruel; but General Roberts is confident that the protection afforded by the constables and the military posts will provide even better protection than is guaranteed by the possession of imperfect firearms.

A RETROSPECT.

In this, our fifty-third and last issue of *THE CRITIC* for the year 1886, we shall briefly summarize the more important events which have transpired during the past twelve months, such as the compilers of annual registers collate in their yearly publications. As yet the black thunder cloud of war, which has for months hung over the nations of Europe, has not burst; and, happily, the conflicts which have taken place, have been comparatively insignificant in their character, and unimportant in their results.

The kindred people of Bulgaria and Servia have, in their desire for the pre-eminence of their respective States, endeavored to settle their jealousies on the battle-field; and that which at one time threatened to involve the greater Powers in a life and death struggle was by the energy and skill of Prince Alexander crushed in a campaign of a few weeks in length. Little Greece, stung at the indifference of the Powers, in failing to recognize her just right to territorial extension, drew the sword in her own behalf, and threatened, if left alone, to drive the unspeakable Turk from European soil; but, muzzled by the Powers, her belligerency resulted in little more than a military demonstration.

In other parts of the world petty wars have been going on, one of the most important of which to us is that which has resulted from the British occupation of Burmah, while France has had her troubles in Anam and Madagascar, and Germany and Portugal in the dark continent. Politically, the year has been uneventful. Death has removed from the Spanish throne the accomplished young Alphonso, and Russian intrigue has been successful in ousting from his position, Prince Alexander, the successful commander and peaceful ruler of Bulgaria. Denmark has experienced the drawback of a constitution in which an arbitrary king is counselled by an irresponsible Ministry. Fickle France has again lost confidence in, and overthrown a government; while in Great Britain Gladstone has been defeated by his friends, and Lord Churchill lifted into the saddle, despite his enemies within the Tory party. The great questions which have agitated the minds of leading public men in this or in other countries still remain unsolved. Irish home rule, socialistic reformation of society, and the battle waged by the Knights of Labor in the interests of the laboring classes, are still live issues of to-day, issues which will yet have to be met and dealt with in a fair, manly, and decisive manner. Dynamite and the fiendish bombshell have, alas! again been resorted to by the misguided advocates of liberty and equality. Brussels, Amsterdam and Chicago, have been the scenes of socialistic upheavals, almost unprecedented in history, compared with which the depredations of the London mobs appear trivial indeed. At home, the political cauldron has been for months at the boiling point. The scaffold of Regina has been made a political platform in one section of the Dominion, while the no-popery cry, provincial rights, exclusion of the Chinese, and Repeal, have done duty in other portions of the country.

Commercially, the results of the year are not as encouraging as the outlook in the spring led men to suppose they would be, but it is satisfactory to know that business to-day is on a more healthy footing, and the prospects are still brighter than they were at this time last year. Nature has stamped 1886 with indelible proofs of the mighty forces which she still controls, as is evidenced by the terrible disasters which followed the volcanic outbreaks and earthquake shocks experienced in Greece, Carolina, and New Zealand. Would space permit, we might draw a veil over these unpleasant events of the year, and present to our readers a bright and glowing picture of the more pleasant features which have marked its course, but these we will leave for another occasion, satisfying ourselves in closing this retrospect by wishing our subscribers A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

TO BE REMEMBERED.

Now that we are at the beginning of a new year the time seems propitious to say a few words on the advisability of advertising. The most successful merchants of our time, the men who are now in the enjoyment of enormous fortunes, or whose names have been handed down to posterity by their bequests to universities, religious and benevolent institutions, have all been believers in advertising, and have freely acknowledged that their success is or was mainly due to a generous use of printer's ink. Trying to do business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You may know what you are doing, but no one else does.

When we look over the list of pushing business men in this city and Province, we find that nearly all of them are in favor of advertising, and that

the few who neglect this important medium of reaching customers are gradually falling to the rear, and if they do not soon wake up will be lost sight of altogether. One great mistake made by some merchants is in the want of regularity in their advertising. They make spasmodic attempts to reach customers just as the spring or autumn trade is at its height, but for the rest of the year discontinue advertising, and so fail to keep their names before the public. This we think is a mistake, and we are borne out in this opinion by the fact that, as business grows dull, the most successful merchants increase their advertising, offer special inducements to their customers, and in this way work off all their old stock and are thus enabled to meet each season's business with the newest and most saleable goods.

Most of our merchants are now closing up their year's business, and we trust that all of them have been blessed with increased profits. If they find themselves with large stocks of unsold goods on hand, or if they have any lines of goods which they wish to close out to make room for new stock; now is the time to attract customers. If they expect that they can sit down and do nothing and that buyers will likely come along they will be sure to be disappointed. If, on the other hand, they will write out a list of the inducements they have to offer and hand it in to *THE CRITIC* office, the facts will be published to thousands of buyers in the city and country, and orders will come in from all directions. They may be rushed with work in closing up the year's business and in taking stock, but they should see to it that their advertisements are at once written out and sent in for publication. A few minutes' work at night before bedtime will do the business and their customers throughout the Maritime Provinces will be kept posted on the goods they have in stock. *THE CRITIC* is now one of the best, if not the very best medium for an advertiser to reach his customers. It has attained to a circulation of over **Four Thousand Three Hundred** copies weekly, and is constantly increasing, and its advertisements are set up in the neatest and most readable style. Without wishing to sing our own praises our success warrants us in stating that *THE CRITIC* has met a long felt want. That our editorials, our news columns, our full commercial reports, our farming and mining departments, and our columns of advertising are read and re-read by thousands of subscribers, and that (unlike many papers which are generally thrown aside as soon as the news has been glanced at) *THE CRITIC* is carefully preserved for future reference.

Remember that people like to see what they can buy and where they can buy it, and that the most certain means of imparting this information is an advertisement in *THE CRITIC*.

IS LIFE WORTH SAVING?

Most of the young and middle-aged people of the present day are apt to infer, from the fact that a grand parent or great-grand parent is still living, that longevity is the characteristic of a former generation, and that the present business worries, social methods, and mode of living have a tendency to reduce the span of life far below three score and ten years. That this idea is erroneous will at once be admitted if we remember that the members of any family who run into the seventies and eighties are the exceptions; and that, as a rule, the majority of our ancestors have died in comparative youth or middle age. Longevity is, in fact, more characteristic of the nineteenth than of the eighteenth century, and will probably be more marked in the twentieth century than it is at present. This is unquestionably the outcome of the more universal recognition of those sanitary laws which tend to preserve health and prevent premature decay, and as the importance of these laws is recognized by all civilized governments, we can gather from the collated official statistics some facts in which all of us are more or less interested. The annual death-rate in Paris has been reduced in four hundred years from 50 to 26 persons in each 1000 of the population, while in two hundred years it has been reduced in London from 80 to 23 per thousand. The average death rate in England and Wales is nineteen in each one thousand inhabitants, the average duration of life having been increased in less than a century from eighteen to forty-one years. It is evident that when the average life of individuals is prolonged, their productive capacity is correspondingly increased, and therefore from an economic standpoint life is worth saving. According to the lowest estimate it costs five hundred dollars to rear a child to an age at which its labor will be advantageous to the community and the death of all children before this age is a direct loss to the commonwealth. Between the ages of twenty and sixty the average value placed upon the life of a man is \$750, and his annual productive power at \$95, if through well organized sanitary arrangements the state can prolong the life of its productive members during the period of productiveness the country gains materially, and the laws deserve the untiring consideration of those whose duty it is to frame them and see that they are properly carried out. But there is still another good result which arises from the lessening of the death average and the consequent increase in the length of life. Statistics prove that on an average persons residing in a climate like ours are incapacitated from work ten days in each year, or in other words one person out of each thirty-six of the population is constantly sick, but thanks to medical science and improved sanitary conditions, men and women are now less liable to sickness than they were fifty years ago, and hence the state is the gainer by the lessening of the number of those who are incapacitated from doing their fair share of labor. If in a comparatively short time the average life of man has been doubled and his liability to sickness diminished fifty per cent, we may fairly hope that, as the world progresses, still more gratifying results may be reached, and although the doctors may, like Othello, find their occupations gone, they can point with pride to the profession which, through its unselfish philanthropy, has minimized the sorrows of mankind and reduced the ill to which men hitherto have been unwilling heirs.