

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
Father Andre, Biel and Dumont	2
The Island of Prince Edward	2
Blue-Nose Grumbling	2
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Poetry - After Sunset	6
A Mean Trick	Alex. E. Sweet, 6, 7
To the Far North	Albina Murray Rolland 7
CELLARINOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Religious	6
Musical Echoes	7, 8
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial	10, 11
Mining	12, 13
Home and Farm	11

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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 sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of seeing or 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.

It takes 375 car loads of geese feathers, that is about 3,000,000 lbs., to supply the luxurious Americans with feather beds. This means that at least 300,000 geese are plucked each year, in order to keep up the supply of them.

It is the loss of presence of mind that causes so many drowning accidents. If when upset from a boat, or if accidentally one fall overboard, a person who loses his presence of mind is at once paralysed, and is unable to direct his efforts so as to ensure safety. We should always bear in mind that a finger laid upon an oar or upon the gunwale of an overturned boat, will enable anyone to float in quiet water until succour can be obtained.

The *Pioneer Press* is responsible for the statement that a lady, recently converted by the Salvation Army, went to her husband's lawyer, and ordered over \$20,000 worth of property, with power of attorney for the control of \$20,000 in personal securities. The *Press* does not state whether the husband appreciated this complete renunciation of the world on the part of his wife, but at all events, no man, under such circumstances, would doubt the sincerity of her conversion.

The *Toledo Blade* (Rep.) having called for an expression of the views of its readers as to the next candidate for the Presidency, received 31,390 responses. Of these 11,000 declared Mr. Blaine to be their first choice. While 6,684 voted for Mr. Sherman, and 2,737 for Robert Lincoln. The rest scattering. Blaine will doubtless be the nominee of the Republican party for the Presidential chair, but it by no means follows that he will ever occupy the White House. Mr. Blaine has a record, and the people know it.

The convict Steele, who attempted to take the life of Curry, in the Bank of Antigonish, is now learning his trade as a tailor in the Penitentiary at Antigonish, and already handles the scissors with as much dexterity as he once did a revolver. Steele's love of adventure has been fed by the villainous dime novels which he has eagerly devoured. The soubriquet with which he has christened himself is Tiger Jack; and even in his letters to his mother, he appends it. Steel is not without taste, his cell being decorated with pictures and panels. Not long since, he was the recipient of a hat-band, on which a tiger's head was beautifully worked in silk, as was also his assumed name. This token, which was presumably sent to him by his sweetheart, Tiger Jack has laid by, hat-bands not being fashionable among convicts.

The North Sea and Baltic Canal, which is now being constructed by the German Government at an estimated cost of forty million dollars, will be sixty-one miles in length, and will, it is thought, become a through channel for commerce. At the present time no less than thirty-six thousand vessels pass north of Denmark, and through the Sound enter the Baltic Sea, and as this route is six times longer than that which the canal provides, the German Government hope that the new waterway may prove a good investment.

The *St. John Sun* vigorously protests against the time muddle, which has resulted from the adoption of Eastern standard time on the railways, and the retention of Intercolonial standard and local time by the people. Had the railway authorities adopted Intercolonial standard time, the public would have gladly fallen in with the movement; but as they have adopted New England or Eastern standard time, the people refuse to make such a radical change as this would necessitate. The railways are supposed to be conducted in the interests of the public, but in the matter of time changes, they evidently prefer to follow their own whims, whether these are pleasing or not to the people in general.

The visitor to, or customer of, C. & W. Anderson, will have noticed in their store a very tempting barrel of pickles, in bulk. They are as nice as they look; but no one would dream that so simple an article as these good home-made pickles are imported, and pay duty. This, to our intense astonishment, we found, from an accidental remark the other day, to be actually the case. We were told that our own farmers will not pay for the proper quality of vinegar, and will not, generally, take the requisite trouble with the products they might so easily grow in perfection, to produce a salable article. Surely this is discreditable to the Nova Scotia farmer. What can he expect, if he has so little enterprise as to let so simple a matter of supply slip into the hands of foreigners?

The *Militia Gazette* strongly advocates the bestowal of a medal for the Red River Expedition of 1870, and quotes Lord Wolseley, who has expressed a strong opinion on the subject. Lord Wolseley is always ready to do justice to the Canadian Militia, who would be a two-thirds majority of the recipients, were it granted. He puts it, of course, on the ground of the laborious nature of the service, admirably carried out; but we have little doubt that the absence of the bloodshed, traditionally necessary, will operate against any such recognition. After the lapse of seventeen years, indeed, many of the force then employed will probably be very indifferent about it. In that time

"Some are dead and some are gone  
And some are scattered and alone"

Out of about 56 Canadian officers who took part in it, we know of at least six who are since dead.

An Indian paper, quoted in the *Broad Arrow*, is responsible for the following item, which would indicate that the Burmese soldier is not always the coward he is represented to be:—"Not long ago a party of infantry and cavalry came upon some mounted dacoits. After a sharp encounter the dacoits were put to flight. One of their number was suddenly hit by a bullet and knocked off his pony. Immediately a Burman galloped back, and, while the rest of the body rode on, dismounted, and, picking up the wounded man, jumped on to his pony again and rode off. This was done under a heavy fire from our men, and a few Lancers, too, were charging down on him at full speed with levelled lances. It was an exciting moment. The brave Burman urged his pony on, and with much pluck, outpacing his pursuers, escaped into the jungle, as he well deserved to do after so gallant a deed. That was really a brave action. That man risked his life to save his comrade. There was no lurking hope of ulterior reward. That cannot be said of all the brave actions performed on battle-fields."

Not alone among Anglo Saxons is Her Majesty revered. The following appeal, issued in Sanscrit and Bengali, by the high priest of Paldyanath, one of the most sacred shrines in Lower Bengal, breathes a spirit of affection and loyalty which would do credit to a Christian divine:—"May that great Empress under whose protection religious ceremonies have been practiced without molestation for fifty years, may that august Empress Victoria live long! The lustre of her reign, which illumines the hollow vales of the wilderness and the concealed places, and which brightens the sight itself, has, like a second sun, made India blossom like the lotus, by dispelling the gloom of injustice originating from the severe tyranny of Mohammedanism. May the Empress Victoria, under whose kindness all her subjects have grown strong in the strength of religion and happiness, may she live a hundred years, with her sons and friends! May the Empress under whose influence uninterrupted peace reigns in India live long! It behoves you Aryans, one and all, to pray for long life for the Empress. May that Empress in whose Empire men of science sing with delight the manifold blessings of telegraphs, railways, and other inventions, may the Empress whose moonlike deeds spread a halo of light far and wide, may the Empress Victoria be victorious! This is my constant prayer to Shiva!"