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A week or so ago, a row took place between two men named Parsons and Saunders. Parsons drew a pistol and fired, fortunately, with no greater injury to Saunders than grazing the skin of his neck, a thick coat collar having deflected the ball. Both were arrested, but Parsons was allowed to go at large, as the schooner to which he belonged was to sail before he could be tried. This is surely a singular mode of carrying out the law, and looks very much like compounding a felony.

England seems to have got out of the scrape of the threatened Zulu war with less trouble than might have been expected. Dinizulu, the son of Catewayo, bought the assistance of the Boers against Usibepu by ceding to them part of the country he had overrun, but on the appearance of British troops the Boers withdrew, and when Dinizulu fled to the Transvaal, handed him over to the British. Looking at the blood-shed and discredit of recent South African wars, this solution is very satisfactory.

We are strongly impressed with the idea that neither the Parliamentary Commission nor Mr. Parnell's action against the *Times* will elicit the real facts of the case. It would, however, be very satisfactory if the steps so dilatorily taken, should clear Mr. Parnell of an odious suspicion, which we heartily wish may prove to be the case. On the other hand, if it turns out that the *Times* has sustained the imputation after it has had reason to suppose the letters were forgeries, it will be a blow to its reputation, of which it will take years to obliterate the evil impression.

We have been from the first unfavorably impressed with the accounts of the treatment of Nationalist prisoners in Ireland. When Mr. Balfour expressed his determination to make no difference in the treatment of prisoners, whatever their standing, he only affirmed a sound general principle. But there are circumstances under which the inexorable assertion of an abstract principle may be not only inexpedient, but cruel and unjust, and the stringent orders which appear to have emanated from the Castle place the treatment of the political prisoners in this category. And these reports, so far as we are aware, remain uncontradicted.

The Syndicate of which Sir John Lisler Kay's name appears as the head, is one of those extensive enterprises which, fully successful or otherwise, must tend to the rapid settlement of the North West. It is reported to own 11 farms of 10,000 acres each. On each there is (or is to be) a central farm-house, stabling for 55 horses, sheds for 500 breeding heifers and 5,000 sheep, and a piggery for 300 pigs. These buildings, it is said, are to cost about \$15,000 on each farm. \$150,000 is to be provided at once. The first farm, Balgonie, is already tolerably well equipped. We are not answerable for these accounts, but if they only approximate to the facts, it is evident that enterprises on such a scale must give a lively impetus to settlement.

The death of the apothecary—so-called "General"—Eades, is instructive. One of the most truculent of anarchists, his brief life—he was only 44 affords an example of the kind of men who live by stirring up the worst antagonisms of class against class, and in what to them, is a life of luxurious enjoyment. Having naturally the lowest tastes, this specimen of his kind hastened his end by intemperance, lived with mistresses, and was in every way an ensample of an ungodly life. In 1870, he organized a band of ruffians, and deliberately shot two unarmed policemen and a child. He took an active part in all the atrocities of the commune. His sudden death while donouncing the respectable classes might be looked upon as a judgment, if it were not an exploded cant so to regard such accidents. He planned the burning of Paris, and only awaited a chance to carry out his plans. The marvel is that men can be found to pin their faith to such ruffians. So truculent a villain should never have been annettied.

An exchange tells us that "the captain of a steamer running on the Ohio river was fined for selling liquor in violation of the Pennsylvania high license law. He took the ground, on appeal, that his vessel was running on a navigable river subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and he held a United States license to engage in interstate commerce, and consequently was not subject to the laws of Pennsylvania. The courts have held, quashing the appeal, that a state can prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within its limits even on navigable waters, in other respects not subject to its jurisdiction. The decision may have some application to the case of the steamers running on the St. Lawrence, which have been selling liquor freely on days when the sale was prohibited on shore, on the assumption that they were not subject to the Provincial laws." We do not know precisely how the Canadian courts would regard this question, but consider it probable that their decision would agree with that of the American tribunal.

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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 approving 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.

The sprightly Duchess of Montrose, who is over 60 years of age, and has been known for some years on the turf as "Mr. Manton," has taken Mr. Milner for her third husband, and settled, it is said, £6,000 a year on him.

Some recent comments on the fact that 21 out of 34 saved from the *Geiser* were officers and crew, who, it is implied, should stick to their ship to the last, are, in this case, indiscriminating and unjust. The *Geiser* went down in five minutes, and in that space of time there was no possibility under the circumstances of testing organization or discipline.

Rev. C. O. Johnston, colored, proprietor of the British Lion newspaper, of Hamilton, was recently refused a room or dinner at the Queen's hotel, Toronto, on the ground that colored people were offensive to other guests. He has entered an action for \$5,000 damages against the proprietors of the hotel. This sort of action on the part of hotel proprietors is not quite in accordance with the freedom of British institutions.

The Toronto *Globe*, which has lately been writing somewhat sensibly, was recently unwise enough to urge the Ottawa Government to disallow the privileges of the *modus vivendi* the moment the Treaty was rejected. It is satisfactory to learn from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that there is no intention of doing so during the present fishing season. Such a course would be unworthy the dignity of Canada, which is bound by every consideration to set an example of steady forbearance.

Tenders have been advertised for, for the construction of the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie Canal, which is satisfactory, though it is a measure which, after the experience of 1870, when the passage of the American Canal was denied to the Red River Expedition, ought to have had attention years ago. But there is another question we should like to have some light upon; what is being done by the Minister of Militia about field equipments, a point on which more than one general officer in command has made the most urgent representations?