

THE CRITIC.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

New Orleans is probably the only place interested in the World's Exposition that is perfectly satisfied with the results. The retail stores did a more active business while it was open than ever before. The hotels and all public resorts, including theatres, restaurants and churches, reaped an exceptionally fine harvest. Rents were at one time so high that New Orleans papers discussed the "house famine." It is believed that on May 1st, that city was richer by \$5,000,000 than it was a year ago.

The Senate of the Canadian Parliament have re-affirmed their amendment to the Scott Act making the sale of light wines and beer legal in those counties which adopted the Act. So far so good, but the Senate have done more, they have sent a message to the members in the Commons insisting upon the adoption of their amendment. We have always regarded the Senate as a useful body, but when it assumes the position of a dictating Chamber in the Canadian Parliament it assumes too much and the day of its usefulness has gone.

During the progress of the North West rebellion we heard much of the rebel half-breeds and the loyal whites, but now that the troubles are over and we are in a position to ascertain the true inwardness of the question we hear much more of loyal half-breeds and rebel whites. No doubt the government will probe this matter to the bottom and should it in the end be found that the real instigators of the outbreak were a few discontented settlers in Prince Albert, these white rebels should receive the punishment which they deserve. If in the eye of the law the semi-barbarous Indian and the weak and misguided half-breed are morally responsible for their overt acts of violence, the disloyal white who secretly urges them on is doubly responsible, and should be dealt with accordingly.

Though the "Further Doings of the Major" were written for young people, we are pleased to find that some, at least, of our grown up readers are entertained by them. When the first series of these Munchausen like narratives was published in London, the English press with one accord set down the author as a Yankee. "In *The Major's Big Talk Stories*," said *The Christian World* (December 8, 1881), "we have some unsurpassable examples of that extravagant exaggeration for which the Yankee is renowned. Both the stories and the accompanying illustrations are irresistibly comic." *The Scotsman*, *Spectator* and *Pull Mall Gazette* were also among the papers which mistook the author's nationality. The last named paper argued in an editorial note (Dec. 7, 1881) that America "ought to produce children's books of the most charming quality. Among those now before us is one, called 'The Major's Big Talk Stories,' which for rollicking fancy and ingenious extravagance beats everything of its kind that we have read for many a day."

The inauguration of the Canadian Club in New York as will be seen by our correspondent's letter was most successfully carried out, and there is every reason for believing that the organization will become most popular among the Canadians residing in the great American metropolis. The promotion of a greater degree of intimacy and social intercourse between Canadians in New York is certainly a worthy object, and the Club deserves to be supported by every patriotic Canadian. In its formation we may see another indication of the growth of that distinctive Canadian national sentiment upon which the future greatness of this Dominion must largely depend.

The refusal of Gladstone to be raised to the peerage, and his announcement that he would again seek the support of the Midlothian constituency, would indicate that the grand old man has not yet given up hope of his again returning to power. While we admire the pluck and dogged determination of the ex Premier, we cannot believe that his return to the Treasury benches would, at the present time, be of advantage to the nation. Gladstone's parochial and foreign policies have proved failures and it is doubtful whether Lord Salisbury and his co-administrators will be successful in extricating the Empire from its present deplorable condition without a loss of national prestige.

For the next six months the fish markets of the Western Provinces of Canada must be supplied by Quebec, St. John, and Halifax, and should our customers be satisfied with the quantity of the fish sold by us, there is every reason for believing that the market may be ours for all time to come. If this prove true, the six months lock out of our fish from the United States market may after all be a blessing in disguise. Brother Jonathan must catch his fish in Canadian waters, and if he hopes to have this privilege continued, he must not draw the line between the hook of the Canadian and that of the American, otherwise he may find the line is left to him but not the hook.

We pay a large sum per head for the gentleman tramps whom we induce to come out as emigrants to Canada, and we ask poor hard working industrious John Chinaman to pay fifty dollars for the privilege of coming to work as a navvy upon our railways. Complexion settles the question, not religion, for that never enters into the calculation in securing European emigrants. "Tush! Tush! Comparisons are cruel." Consistency, yes, free trade in foreign tramps and protection against foreign laborers. Let us be consistent and exact head money from the pauper as well as the celestial, the country would gain thereby in the long run.

Big Bear has been trapped and a large number of his warriors made prisoners. Several of the minor chiefs who were with his band have it is believed, escaped into the United States. The fight at Duck Lake and the capture of Big Bear are the alpha and omega of a rebellion which has cost the Dominion upwards of four million dollars, has proved the absolute necessity of a through railway line upon Canadian soil, and has fully tested the pluck and fighting capabilities of the Canadian volunteers. We trust that with the disappearance of this miniature war cloud the outlook for the Dominion may brighten in every quarter, as Canada cannot afford another such outbreak during the present century.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce goes in for light upon their Short Line, but with the exception of a few of its members who knew all that is to be known upon the question, the Chamber as yet sees through a glass darkly, and therefore the mere passage of a resolution carries no weight whatever. Messrs. Stairs and Daly may have been right in their advocacy of the International Line of railway, but they would have saved themselves a deal of unpleasant criticism had they taken the trouble to furnish the Chamber of Commerce with the reasons which induced them to give it their support. As it is we presume the building of the Pope line is a fixed fact, but the fact that it is the shortest and most direct route between Halifax and Montreal remains yet to be proved.

The critics are pronouncing judgment upon Miss Cleveland's new book. One says it is "a very fair work—for a woman's," but gives "a friendly hint" intimating that it "would be well for the fair authoress to study history before publishing another volume of essays." Another says that "when Miss Cleveland will be less one-sided in her views, her essays will have more weight with the public." A Philadelphia editor is free to admit that Miss Cleveland's literary style is above the average, but regrets that she undertakes to write upon debatable points of history. The *Baltimore Mirror* would like to speak a good word for an American authoress, but seeing that Miss Cleveland is either a very prejudiced or a very ignorant person, will not review her book. The fact is, that although Miss Cleveland is a clever lady, still were her brother not in the Whitehouse, her essays would never gain more than very local notoriety. Again, while the advocates of "Women's Rights" are almost all old maids, they shall not, however flowery their style, be regarded as oracles by the public.