

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

ORIGINAL.	
The Greatest Question of the Age.....	2
New Enterprise.....	2
Lesseppe.....	2
Canada to the Front.....	2
Some National Names.....	2
Notes.....	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Extracts from Letters of Capt. Challice.....	0
Snaps and Scraps.....	0
Events and Comments.....	0
Our Boston Letter.....	6, 7
The Canadian Militia.....	"T. R. A." 7
Rambling Notes on Burmah.....	"Franc Tireur" 7, 8
Double Acrostic.....	"T." 8
	"Seaforth." 3
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Fit-Bits.....	3
News of the Week.....	4
Religious.....	5
Commercial.....	9
Market Quotations.....	9
Serial.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12, 13
Agricultural.....	14

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

For the past five years the regimental bands in Belgium have not used drums, but they have recently been again introduced. The keeping of time by music may be important but it is a pity that it could not be accomplished some other way than by making the music subservient to the drum.

We have received from the Publishers, Eaton & Co., of Toronto, a copy of the "School and Home Supplement." It is in magazine form, clearly printed on excellent paper, and illustrated with fine cuts. The contents are largely literary, and are highly creditable to the publishers, artists, and writers.

Those who trade with the Malagases have been obliged to closely study the manners and customs of the people. Not long since a London firm sent a native merchant in Tamative, a large consignment of hardware supplies in several packages of rejected opera hats. The hammers, chisels, saws, files, locks, etc. remained unsold upon his shelves, while the hats sold readily at \$12 each.

Prince Alexander is betrothed, and will shortly be married, to the Princess Sophia of Germany. The *London Figaro* in referring to this fact points out the curious relationship which will result. Princess Beatrice will be sister-in-law to her nephew by marriage. Prince Henry of Battenburg will be brother-in-law to his niece by marriage, and the Queen will be grandmother to her son-in-law's brother.

The Pharmaceutical Science, which has of late years developed to such large proportions throughout the world, and as a result of which, every town and village, yea, even hamlet, has its indispensable drug store, is not regarded with the Siamese with that mystic reverence which its compound elements warrant. There is but one drug store in all Siam. What a benighted country.

A visitor to the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, was recently shown an Indian pipe said to have been found in one of the mounds in Minnesota. Upon the pipe was an elegant carving representing an elephant. The pipe might have been considered a veritable antiquity had it not been that antiquarians could not understand where the red man had seen the elephant. Counterfeit antiquities are much more common in the United States than the proverbial wooden nutmeg of Connecticut, but experts can readily detect these from genuine articles. It takes a powerful imagination to understand the value placed by Americans upon flint arrow heads manufactured in New York.

The color line in Rio Janeiro is very exactly defined. The whites and negroes not only have their own churches, schools, and places of amusement, but likewise have separate street cars, omnibuses, and cabs. Mr. J. T. Bulmer would find a wide field for his obliteration policy in the commercial metropolis of the South, were he to succeed in effacing the color line which still disgraces our city.

The inhabitants of Massachusetts are alarmed at the extent to which Sunday labor is carried on in the old Bay State. The Sabbath as a day of rest is unknown to 150 000 of her hard-worked citizens. This is enough to make John Endicott and his brethren of the old Puritan school turn in their graves. Now that public attention has been called to the matter, Sunday labor is likely to be restricted within the bounds of necessity.

In view of the enormous swindles which have been carried on during recent years by the private Savings Banks in the United States, the government is considering the advisability of establishing postal savings banks in which the mechanic can deposit his hard earnings with some degree of security. Should these banks be established, the number of recruits, formerly Bank Cashiers, seeking the defaulters' camping ground in Canada will be greatly reduced.

The race differences in the Austro-Hungarian Empire are again cropping up, and will in all probability continue to do so for many generations to come. The Teuton, Slavonian and Magyar races are heterogeneous elements out of which to forge a strong Consolidated State, but their interests, which are the same, may hold them together until time, the great leveller, shall have effaced the existing race differences.

Lady Mount Temple is using her name and influence in promoting a society of ladies known as "The Plumage League." The object of the society is to discountenance the wearing of feathers and wings of birds, and each member of the League is pledged to refrain from using ornamental feather plumage. This new crusade of fashion will probably have the effect of putting a stop to the wholesale and wanton destruction of our most beautiful birds.

The pack-mule of Confederation is not only called upon to bear the load of trade depression and hard times, but is likewise obliged to shoulder the supposed depreciation in land values, consequent upon our plastic assessment laws. Mr James Thompson, of Halifax, has seized upon the latter to prove that confederation has been disastrous to the Province of Nova Scotia, but the figures he adduces only serve to prove the urgent necessity for the immediate enactment of an equitable assessment law.

A correspondent writing to the "Montreal Witness" deprecates the use of the name Great Britain and Ireland to designate the United Kingdom. He says, with truth, that such a name precludes the Irish people from being spoken of as British. Some writers in referring to the British army and navy incorrectly speak of them as English, but there can be no doubt that even the English themselves now fully appreciate the necessity of overcoming sectionalism by the adoption of a name comprehensive enough in its scope to include Englishmen, Scotchmen and Welsh men as well as Irishmen.

The Czar of Russia has the Press of that country curbed and bridled in a most effective manner. Newspapers are allowed to exist only upon sufferance; they are classed as official, semi-official and non-official. Should an enterprising reporter of a non-official journal obtain and publish an important bit of State news before it had appeared in the authorized official newspapers, the further publication of the paper would be at once prohibited. By such means as this does the Czar hold in check the Socialistic elements which threaten to overwhelm his throne, and snatch from his hand the sceptre of tyranny.

The minutes of the last annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Teachers Association have just been published in neat pamphlet form. The pamphlet, which contains several valuable contributions to the literature of the teaching profession, may be obtained for a small sum from Supervisor McKay, Secretary of the Association. Superintendent Crockett, of New Brunswick, contributes a paper on the Kindergarten System and Modern Education, in which the principles of the "New Education" are clearly expounded, and a succinct account is given of the work done in the past by the great educational reformers. Professor Rand follows with an exposition of some "Questions in Educational Philosophy," in which he advocates the cultivation of the Emotions and the Will, as well as the Intellect, and pleads for the happy mean between the extremes of the old and the new theories of education. Principal McKay, of Pictou, enters a powerful plea for Spelling Reform. "The School System of Prince Edward Island" is treated of by Superintendent Montgomery. "The Course of Study for the Common Schools," by Inspector W. D. McKenzie, "Some Defects in our Educational System," by Prof. Eaton; and "The Best Method of Teaching Reading," by Principal Calkin.