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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.

It is difficult to credit the correctness of the paragraphs which state seventeen years in gaol and a fine of \$20,800, to have been the penalty imposed on a Wichita (Kansas) drug store clerk for the sale of 208 glasses of beer. If this iniquity be as stated, Prohibitionists should blush at the existence under their auspices of a law so vindictive and ferocious that the most savage avenger of brutality could scarcely wish a higher power wherewith to deal with murder, arson or rape.

A work which will take rank as a standard with DeTocqueville's, Guizot's, Prevost-Paradol's, and Montalembert's, has been written by the Comte de Franqueville, "Le Gouvernement et le Parlement Britanniques," and is highly spoken of by English reviewers as deep, calm, judicial and exhaustive. The Comte's estimate of English political sentiment and institutions generally is high and flattering, but he falls into a strain of severe criticism when he refers to the blundering, verbose and confused methods of legislation of the British Parliament.

We have more than once alluded to the tendency of prophecy to incline mankind to rush in the direction of fulfilment. It deeply behooves the thinker to set himself firmly against that tendency. Because Mr. Sherman has prophesied that within ten years Canada will be represented either at Westminster or at Washington, both those who affect the United States and those who desire Imperial Federation, are carried away by the idea. Canada has suffered much from the premature forcing of important questions. Imperial Federation, should it be brought home to Canadians as the most desirable (as we think it is), is in its infancy. On the other hand let our people think well how they would like their superior political institutions and their higher morality to be subordinated to Americanism, and what sort of third-rate position our prominent public men would occupy at Washington. We have now before us the discreditable outcome of the American quadrennial turmoil, let it sink deep in our minds, and let us at the same time call to mind our vast territory and resources, and say whether a country with so fine a promise of the future as a great nation, will choose any secondary position.

A contemporary sententiously observes, apropos of the violent utterances of some American politicians:—"A great nation dragged down and disgraced by demagogues is like unto the royal body of Herod devoured and befouled by parasitic worms."

Currency has been given to a story that an officer of the York and Lancaster left Halifax for an excursion westward, and surreptitiously embarked for England at Rimouski, leaving debts unpaid. We have heard it emphatically denied that any such case occurred. We do not profess to know where the truth lies, but it strikes us that if a civilian had done what has been charged his name would have been given to the public. If the case has really been as stated, it would be only fair to other officers of the regiment that the name of the defaulter should be given.

"Mugwump" is not a pretty word, but it embodies a sound principle, and stands for the name of a party which is as near to purity of ideal as anything in American politics is likely to be for some time to come. The New York Star significantly calls them "the Protestants of Politics." The revolt of these Independents four years ago secured the triumph of a moral principle in the election of Mr. Cleveland, and they are now disappointing the expectations of those who hoped that the moral reaction had spent itself, by opposing the corrupt Democrat Governor Hill in New York while supporting Mr. Cleveland for the Presidency.

The curiously splenetic strictures of a contemporary on the army last week, were followed up by direct charges of gross misbehaviour at the Academy, on the part of officers of the 76th. We have taken some pains to gather information on this matter, and what we learn leaves the impression that whatever took place was a good deal exaggerated, and observed with what, taken in connection with the previous article, looks like prejudice. Many persons who were present declare that they were unaware of the occurrence of anything noticeable. How is it, if there was marked misbehaviour, that it escaped the notice of the other daily and evening papers?

It would seem that Mr. Haggart, the new Postmaster-General, is a Minister to whom the public may look for much needed reforms. He has already effected one, of the unnecessary restrictions of Registration Stamps. The next should be that of the vexatious, and, we should think, expensive regulation by which letters accidentally under stamped are sent to the Dead-Letter Office. We have frequently pointed out how serious a matter this might be in the case of an important business letter. The third should be the reduction of the three cent rate to two cents. Surely, with our rapidly-growing population, this might now be ventured upon, even if it should entail some loss for two or three years.

There is much debate afoot as to what it is good to learn at school, and what may be as well let alone as inessential for the future. It is certain that a deep knowledge of classics is of real avail in after life to but one in a thousand, but a knowledge of the rudiments of Latin and Greek grammar, of the Greek alphabet, and of a list of Greek roots used as the basis of scientific terms, is of daily utility. And as we have urged before, a knowledge of the Latin grammar would render superfluous the pedantic and complicated stuff called grammar, with which the heads of unfortunate children are daily dazed and addled, and with the result that not one child in a thousand either speaks or writes decent English.

Mr. Lepine, the Labor Candidate (supported by the Conservative vote), has been returned to the Federal Parliament for Montreal East, in the room of the late Mr. Coursol, by a large majority. It is not often that, in recording the results of an election, we make any comment on it, but we confess to a feeling of satisfaction in this event, on account of the pronounced disloyalty to the Dominion of the nationalist candidate, and the disgraceful race and religious issues raised by him and M. Mercier. The faction is worthy of its patron, St. Riel, the memory of whose sacred gibbet has been so serviceable to M. Mercier in agitating his frothy and sputtering clientele, that he really ought, as he is supposed to be in favor at the Vatican, to make an effort to procure the canonization of the defunct patriot.

BRITISH CONNECTION AND SUPPORT.

"Mr. J. H. Long, of Peterboro', Ont., has addressed an able letter to *The Globe*, deprecating as unfair its frequent insinuations that Britain will not stand by Canada. 'But the great lesson of the crisis' is, in Mr. Long's opinion, 'that Canada's position can never be satisfactory unless she can of right call upon the Empire for armed support. And Canada can never do this until she is willing to contribute a fair share towards the maintenance, on a peace footing, of the Imperial fleet.' In conclusion Mr. Long admits