

# THE CRITIC:

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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.

Several opinions have been expressed that, even in the event of the British Government considering that the appointment of Sir Charles Tupper to the Washington Embassy would be the most desirable, the traditions of Foreign Office promotion would preclude it. In such a case all routine rules should be set aside without a moment's consideration, unless the Foreign Office wishes to figure as an old woman of the most incapable type. Fancy important diplomacy being imperilled by such antiquated inanity. There are but two men fit for Washington—Lord Dufferin and Sir Chas. Tupper.

The very well written description of wild horses on the southern plains, to which we give place in our contribution column, contains also, in the latter part, an account of a stampede through a camp which is interesting as being, except as to the number of horses, a fair picture of what befell the N. W. Mounted Police near Dufferin, on the Red River in July, 1874. In that instance nearly 200 horses stampeded the camp in just such a thunder-storm, overturning tents and waggons and seriously injuring two or three men. Like the party described, the M. P. recovered all the horses but two or three, though Major Walsh rode about 100 miles before he recovered the bulk of them.

"To-morrow," said the Halifax *Herald* last Monday, "the anti British element of the states of New York and Indiana will decide who is to be the Presidential figure-head while they rule the United States for the next four years." Just so, and "the anti British element" has succeeded in making its country an unparalleled exhibition of degradation. The trick which succeeded in duping Lord Sackville now appears to have been part of a deeply considered scheme of villainy. Mr. Chamberlain, it appears, was approached with the same duplicity, and the low cunning of the contrivers reached its climax of shameful astuteness in a letter to Mr. Bowell, the Minister of Customs, which, had it succeeded, would have elicited an outburst against Orangeism. Fortunately both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Bowell were birds too wide awake to be caught with chaff. But it would have been well if Mr. Bowell had given earlier publicity to the letter he received.

The fact is so patent that it may be assumed without risk of question that a vast mass of the inhabitants of the Great Republic, if the smartest, are at the same time the most childish people on the face of the earth. Altogether apart from marriages in balloons, and the usual inane absurdities with which their papers are filled, the Presidential election has been productive of a series of bets, which fills nearly two columns of the *Chronicle*, of which it is difficult to say which bears the palm of absurdity. Perhaps the two fools, one of whom is bound to wear a petticoat for three months (a straight waistcoat would be more appropriate,) and the idiot who is to eat a boiled crow, are as conspicuous lunatics as any.

The St. John *Evening Gazette* is doing service to our country in drawing attention to text books in use in the Canadian schools which present history as distorted and garbled by American writers. The *Gazette* draws special attention to "Lossings Field Book of the war of 1812," "which," it says, "is to be found on the shelves of so many Canadian Libraries." If this be so it is a fact discreditable to our Educational authorities. What have we to do with the ordinary popular American version of history, whose partiality, false-coloring and exaggeration is so patent that no student of history would dream of looking to them for facts? We want Canadian history in the schools, not American spread-eagle versions of it.

Some Canadian papers are great blunderers as to titular distinction. An Ontario paper before us speaks of the "Hon." W. E. Gladstone. There is no such person. In England "Hon." is entirely confined to birth, and is the distinction of the younger sons of earls, of all sons of viscounts and barons, and of the daughters of the latter two grades, earl's daughters being "ladies." "Right Hon." is the distinction of a member of the Privy Council, and is Mr. Gladstone's proper designation. In Canada the term "Hon." appertains to certain official positions. Sir John Macdonald might rightly be called "the Hon. and Right Hon." being "Hon." as a Canadian Cabinet Minister, and "Right Hon." as a member of the English Privy Council.

Of course all sorts of rash surmises are afloat in a matter of such import as the dismissal of Lord Sackville. We think it most unlikely that Lord Salisbury would be ill advised enough even to hint at a demand for the recall of Mr. Phelps. Lord Sackville committed himself to an astonishing indiscretion, and must take the consequences. Mr. Bayard is technically right, though his courtesy is apparently scant. Unnecessary brusqueness is a characteristic of American diplomacy, but it should not be forgotten that Mr. Bayard is not by nature discourteous, and that his present bluntness is forced upon him in a manner which it is impossible for him to resist. It is not too much to say that the slightest courtesy towards England shewn in a public document is at present *the* unpardonable offence.

We welcome the definite form which has been assumed by the Scottish Home Rule scheme. No danger to the Empire inheres in any proposition emanating from Scotland, and the North British agitation will tend to bring that of Ireland into line with it, a result likely to be accelerated by Mr. Parnell's recent attitude. It is strange that English Conservatism does not see that Federation is the clear road out of present difficulties. If Scotland sticks to her colors, we predict that this will be the movement which will oust Lord Salisbury's government, unless they fall in with it. As we have said before the man who brought Indian troops to bear on an European complication, had he been still living, would have taken the wind out of Mr. Gladstone's sails by this time. We could wish Scotch and Irish Home Rulers would change the name of their contention to "Federation."

The reply of Lord Stanley to an address recently presented to him by the "Sons of England Society," should go far to indicate to those who regard a Governor-General as a mere ornamental figurehead, that considerable legitimate power resides in that functionary precisely in that direction in which, if used at all, it can only be used for good, and it is ground for solid satisfaction to know that for a long term of years it has never been used except to allay friction. The address alluded to "elements of discord" in Canada, and called on statesmen to keep "the evil leaven from working mischief in the mass." Lord Stanley reminded the deputation that they were touching on graver matters than they were perhaps aware of, and that it is the constitutional majority of the people who determine great questions. His Excellency remarked that he had observed a disposition to look upon the interests of localities rather than those of the whole Dominion, and added "we are not here for the benefit of one section, class or creed, and I trust your society will put aside all party prejudice and religious animosities." These are words befitting the constitutional head of a nation.