

# THE CRITIC:

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Prince George of Wales, it is said, is to have a command in the naval manœuvres off the English Coast. He will be appointed to No. 81 torpedo boat, which will be the commodore boat of the flotilla. The illness of the Duke of Edinburgh will probably prevent his taking part in the summer manœuvres, as some months will elapse ere he will have regained his strength.

We now have in the harbor war-ships representing three of the great powers of the world, viz., Great Britain, Germany and France, and an Austrian war-ship is daily expected. The United States fleet is to arrive about the Carnival time, and we would suggest to the Carnival committee the advisability of trying to arrange a series of international rowing races between crews of the different ships. That such races would prove interesting goes without saying, and we have but little doubt that with timely attention the matter could be arranged.

The accounts given by competent observers of the state of Russia are very dismal. The emancipation ukase of the late Czar is acknowledged to be an utter failure, and the misery of the rural class is greater than even in the days of serfdom. The "Mir" system operates against the due rotation of crops, and the unhappy peasants practically become the slaves of the Jewish "Mir-eaters." The bribery and corruption of the officials, the ignorance of the peasants, and the interference with all private liberty, continue as under Peter the Great. A man cannot alter the front of his house without permission. A machine is described as "moving freely," and the dangerous word is scratched out. The "revolutions" of a wheel are considered to suggest wrong ideas. Is it any wonder that the air of Holy Russia is instinct with Nihilism?

The emigration schemes of the Company represented by Sir John Lister Kaye seem, according to all accounts, to be soundly conceived and well carried out, and the North-West will, it would appear, really have reason to feel some sort of gratitude to a gentleman who is said always to select suitable immigrants. The government is now reported to have accepted Sir John's proposition to grant him lands at a dollar per acre adjoining his present settlements in the North-West, on condition that he brings out and settles within one year fourteen hundred families, to whom he binds himself to advance, if necessary, twelve hundred dollars per family at a reasonable rate of interest with security on the lands settled by them. This is certainly an extensive plan for a single Company, and, if successfully carried out, will very materially hasten and augment the settlement of the country.

We continue to observe occasional cautions to the Government from many sections of the Press of the Dominion about the Mormons. If these gentry should be permitted to become troublesome, the Government will have no excuse for not having well looked after them. We confess we look upon them with considerable suspicion. Says an exchange:—"Of course, if they are simply Mormons in name and behave themselves as law-abiding citizens they have a right to the protection of the law. If, however, they contemplate introducing polygamy into the Dominion, they should be made to render a speedy account of themselves. The North-west can afford to wait awhile for settlers rather than incur the stigma of being peopled by Mormon methods. We do not want any Utah or Brigham Young or John D. Lees in our Dominion. The authorities will doubtless keep a sharp look out for the new-comers."

The season has now arrived when the heat in the United States is driving the people forth in search of cool breezes. Many are too poor to visit the expensive seaside resorts of the land of the free, where, by the expenditure of a small fortune, the doubtful luxury of being packed like herring in mammoth hotels may be enjoyed, and are forced to remain at home to broil under the sweltering sun. Here in Nova Scotia we hail the summer months as the most delightful of the year. The heat of the sun is so tempered by the cool ocean breezes that there is a pleasure in mere existence. Occasional copious rains keep nature crisp, promote a luxurious growth, and the woods and the fields are clothed with green. The innumerable bays that indent our coast, the glorious Bras d'Or Lake, the chains of smaller lakes with connecting brooks and rivers that everywhere abound, furnish delightful cruising grounds for the yachtsman, the oarsman, or the deft wielder of the paddle. The fisherman can devote his attention to the salmon, the lake and sea trout, or to deep sea fishing. Comfortable, desirable hotels are to be found in all parts of the Province, where, if one cannot find luxury, one may be certain of good wholesome food at moderate rates, and best of all a keen appetite to enjoy it. Hundreds now visit us, gaining health and strength from our invigorating summer climate, and find actual economy in the stay. There is room for thousands more, who may be sure of a hospitable reception and a glorious time.

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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.

We have more than once remarked that to the student of the most interesting of all books—the Bible—Assyriology is of more value than any other branch of archæology. This is indeed no new contention. So long ago as 1883 the fact was recognized, and forms the subject of a highly interesting article by Friedrich Delitzsch, from which we propose from time to time to extract some attractive points. In the first place, Professor Delitzsch says that the Assyrian dictionary discloses not only the meanings of the stems from which a great number of Hebrew nouns are derived, but the true stems themselves. If, he says, we bear in mind the fact that the Assyrian language was fixed in literature many centuries before the oldest known Hebrew texts, and thousands of years before Arabic, we cannot be surprised that Assyrian has preserved in not a few cases the oldest forms of words lost by frequent use or decay in the kindred tongues. He then proceeds to give numerous instances in which Hebrew words are directly derived from Assyrian, and affirms that the Hebrew language is based upon that far more than—as is the common idea—on Arabic.

So long as murderous and dynamitic outrages, planned in American cities and carried out with Irish-American funds, were confined to Great Britain, the average American contemplated them with a coolness amounting to complacency. When, however, an atrocious secret society murder is perpetrated in Chicago, the American Press discovers that the iniquity that has been winked at is—to quote the *Baltimore American*—"an outrageous reflection on American civilization." Very numerous extracts from the Press all over the United States, in *Public Opinion* (Washington), show that the country is at last awakened to the iniquitous nature of such societies as the Clan-na-Gael. The disgust of the better American mind will probably be intensified when it becomes plain that the subscriptions of the poorer Irish are used to maintain in luxury a number of astute and shameless demagogues, and that the treatment by these *vehm-gerichts* of the poor tools of their murderous plans after they have done their work is hard and callous even from the point of view of a community of assassins. No representative Irishman, it is remarked, is pointed at as having had anything to do with the Cronin murder, and we may well believe it, but it is plain that the posts of authority in these inquisitions may, and do, fall into the hands of profligate ruffians, and it is high time that all good Irishmen looked to their national reputation in this connection.