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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 late judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Malicious newspaper men seem determined to mortify the confident people who assert that there is no such phenomenon as a centenarian. One of these unscrupulous persons asserts that there are now living in the State of Maine 16 men and women who have lived more than 100 years. Next time!

It is satisfactory, in the interests of common sense, to learn from English Medical Journals that the proposal that in future physicians should write their prescriptions in English instead of in Latin, is gaining favor. The dignity of the profession cannot suffer from this reform, and it would obviate the chances of mistakes on the part of chemists' assistants.

We are coming to understand that the nasal twang which, to other than American ears, is so decidedly unpleasant, is really relished by Americans. Witness Mr. Bill Nye, who, writing on "Gum Chewing," in the N. Y. Herald says "It is unnice. It interferes with the clear nasal enunciation." Well, all we can say is that "tastes differs, and appetites varies."

The Acadia Athenæum contains (with much other good matter) an interesting notice of a lecture, the first by a lady, delivered under the auspices of the Athenæum by Miss Wadsworth, Principal of Acadia Seminary, a hackney. The lecture seems to have been admirably appreciative of the great novelist. Miss Wadsworth rightly takes for his typical work, "Henry Esmonde," considered by many the most perfect novel in the English language.

The Graphic, about Christmas-time explained and illustrated an Egyptian version of Cinderella more graceful than the well-known fairy tale. Cinderella is a Greek, and her name is Rhodope (rosy checked). Aphro, however, calls her Doricha. She was originally a fellow slave with her master. The Prince is Psammetichus. If, however, he is, as is supposed, a Pharaoh, it brings the story down to the date of Cambyses, by whom Pharaoh was overthrown. We say down, not back, because if we do mistake, Mr. Ralston, a high authority on Folk Lore, traces it up to a pre-Hindoo antiquity, and the Egyptian version is not, as the Graphic claims, the original one.

Sunday, the 29th, is the centenary of the birth of Byron, and Tuesday, the 31st, that of the death of Prince Charles Edward, the Young Pretender, which event (Prince Henry Stuart being a Cardinal) relieved England and the House of Brunswick from all anxiety for the future. The celebration of the centenary of New South Wales also began at Sydney on Tuesday, and was to last several days.

Some papers by Dr. Honeyman, especially one on the "Geology of Aylesford, Kings County," in the Proceedings of the N. S. Institute of Natural Science, read in November, 1886, reveal the fact that, in addition to his great geological attainments, Dr. Honeyman is master of a style of writing remarkable for terseness and lucidity, and by no means deficient in elegance, while totally eschewing superfluous verbiage.

Knowledge, edited by Proctor, deals summarily with the nonsense talked about the "Star of Bethlehem," which is simply the planet Venus, recorded in astronomical notices for the month as being "a most brilliant and conspicuous object in the south east before sunrise." In February and March, 1889, she will be as striking an object after sunset. "The Star of Bethlehem," Mr. Proctor adds, "of Matthew's Gospel—if it ever really existed, and is not the mere embodiment of a myth—must, in all probability, have been a comet."

The Weekly Edition of the Times of January 6th, is a good deal taken up with notices of the centenary of its first issue on New Year's day, 1788. The first thing which met the eye in that issue was an advertisement of the appearance of John Kemble and Mrs. Siddons in the principal characters in "Julia, or the Italian Lovers." What the Times has to say about itself is variously commented on by the English Press, but all agree that it always has been, and still is, the first newspaper of England, and, indeed, of the world.

The forged letters which so excited the Czar and Prince Bismarck, have been published. They are four in number. Three purport to be from Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg, (Bulgaria) to the Countess of Flanders, sister of the King of Roumania, and sister-in-law to the King of Belgium, and one from Prince Reuss, German Ambassador to Vienna. They were calculated to convict Germany of a dishonest policy, and, as they nearly plunged Europe into war, are about as diabolically wicked a contrivance as malignity ever invented.

The King's College Record for December is of perhaps more than ordinary merit. Prominent in interest is an excellent notice of a young poet, as yet but little known, Philips Stewart, from the pen of Mr. C. S. Martin. We regret that it is too long for our columns. Stewart's verse is poetry. But we trust we shall be able to find space for Prof. Robert's notice of a new edition (edited and published by Fred. A. Stokes, New York,) of the poems of Sir John Suckling, cavalier, soldier and poet, whose charming *vers de société* have strongly influenced modern verse of that nature.

The Dalhousie Gazette of 21st inst., contains a discriminating critique on Spenser, and an article, "English and Classics," spelt according to the rules of the American and English Philological Associations. It does not look quite so hideous as most illustrations of orthographical reform, and might furnish a hint here and there for brevity of spelling. But what is required is what the Spaniards have, a revisiting college of the language, whose decisions would carry weight. What is to be feared, however, would be the sad lack of good taste which is so conspicuous in the revised New Testament.

Mr. Congressman Dingley of Maine, who is evidently well described as a "frothy and impulsive New Englander," has been asking in the House of Representatives for information relative to alleged discrimination on the part of the Dominion Government in the matter of tolls on vessels passing through the Welland Canal to United States ports. Of course there is no such discrimination, and we only mention the matter as it proves that the Welland Canal has roused Mr. Dingley's ire by diverting traffic from United States ports. We ask no better answer to Mr. Wilkinson's mis-statements, which we referred to editorially in a previous issue.

NOVA SCOTIA PRESS ASSOCIATION.

In conversation with gentlemen connected with the Provincial press, we often hear surprise expressed that a Nova Scotia Press Association has never been formed. The opinion that such an Association would prove of great benefit seems to be unanimous, and yet, indisputable as are the prospective