

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commerce, Manufacturing, Mining and Agriculture.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS. }

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 1, 1889.

{ VOL 6
No. 9 }

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There is a spice of originality in Mr. Cook's resolution against the coercive Irish Legislation of the Imperial Parliament, in setting forth that it militates against Canada by supplying fuel to anti-British feeling in the States. Nevertheless Sir John Macdonald is probably right in objecting to court a probable repetition of the polite snub administered on the occasion of a former Home Rule resolution. The coercive policy is, no doubt, a huge and mischievous blunder, but the Canadian Parliament would probably only be again requested to mind its own business—at least so long as the present Imperial Ministry is in power.

We observe in that valuable publication, the *St. John Educational Review*, for February, a notice of a new text-book—"Palmer's Temperance Teaching of Science." Educational influences thus brought to bear on the mind of youth are perfectly right and legitimate, and, together with example and persuasion, forcibly alluded to by Mr. Sumichrast in a recent remarkably able "Boston Letter" to the *Chronicle*, are the true means of moral reforms, not compulsory legislation interfering with individual liberty and responsibility. By these means the reform of manners has been already more than half accomplished. Canada especially has come to be quoted as the most sober of civilised countries, and instances are familiar to all observers, of families whose young men have grown up under modern moral influences without taste for liquor of any sort.

The continued convictions of Home Rule Members of Parliament are much to be regretted, but the convictions themselves not so much as the prison treatment. For the convictions themselves it may be fairly said that the Irish members and others persistently and determinedly violate an existing law, and that it is for obvious motives their express role to do so. Mr. Balfour's theory is that no personal distinction should be permitted between one class of misdemeanant and another. In theory this is all very well, but, as a matter of fact, the culprits are not felons, and their offences are in reality political. To refuse to allow them to wear their own clothes, and to otherwise treat them as felons, is therefore not only unjust, but extremely unwise, as affording excellent scope for the cultivation of somewhat cheap forms of martyrdom. There is no end to the ill-effects of coercion thus carried beyond the bounds of reason and justice, and it will assuredly, if persisted in, unseat the Conservative Government at the next general election.

Crime has been brought by English malefactors to a nearer approach to a science than it has, happily, as yet entered into the heads of our more rough and ready operators to conceive. The *Field* has an able article on this subject, pointing to the lash as the only efficient deterrent where the definite criminal policy, as in garrotting some years ago, is to increase the crime in order to minimize the chances of detection. "It is historical," says the *Field*, "that the application of the cat in addition to incarceration promptly altered the views of the depredate fraternity on this score, and garrotting is now practically a thing of the past." The remarks of the *Field* are mainly directed to the calculated operations of burglars, whose achievements have been somewhat prominent of late, and are partly apropos of the right of the "burgled" to take the initiative in shooting, under the impression that hesitation may endanger his own life. We only at present desire to point out that what has been found to deter the violent burglar or robber will be found equally efficacious to daunt the ineffable brutality and dastardliness of the outragers of women.

The Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce, in anticipating active operations during the present session on that great national desideratum, the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, regrets that it will only have a depth of 17 feet over the mitre sills, while it is unanimously demanded by an American Waterways Convention held at the Sault, that the new Canal begun on the American side should have a depth of 20 feet. They also contemplate deepening the lake and river channels between Buffalo, Chicago and Duluth. Large improvements will be required in the Canals of the St. Lawrence system, and to the river and connecting lake channels, before a boat drawing 14 feet can be taken from the Lakes to Montreal through our own waterways, and altho' contracts have been let for a portion of these vital enlargements, the Beauharnois Canal improvement remains in abeyance, partly, it is said, because it is undecided whether it would not be preferable to construct a new Canal. Meanwhile a depth of 14 feet means the passage of vessels loaded with 2000 tons of grain, while a depth of 20 feet means the passage of craft loaded with between 3000 and 4000 tons. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Government will not commit itself to the penny-wise-and-pound-foolish policy of shirking the construction of an efficient depth in the first instance. The welfare of the whole grain trade of the great North West may be jeopardised by want of courage in this instance.

THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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.

Regarding the motion of Mr. Butterworth, in Congress, for a grant to pay for a free trip through the States for Canadian Members of Parliament, the *Montreal Witness* justly observes, "Hospitality is a good thing, but just neighborly relations are better; and until Americans can atone for their hostile legislation it would be good form for Canadian Members of Parliament to turn a deaf ear to this specious proposition." We entirely agree with the *Witness*.

The honor of the Medical Profession has been well sustained by the Court Physicians at Vienna in the matter of the death of Prince Rudolf. It was represented to them, according to the *Times*, that every death comes from stoppage of blood at the heart, and that they would be saying nothing untrue in omitting to state the cause, but they firmly declined any course except signing nothing or declaring the truth. Under the circumstances their resolute attitude did them honor.

The rapid modernization of Jerusalem has recently attracted notice. It is now stated that a firman has been granted for the construction of a railway between Jaffa and the Holy City, and that work will be begun this month. The influx of traffic and civilization will probably have the effect of deteriorating the spurious sanctity of many of the so-called holy places of the City, which at present appeal to oriental credulity, but which are palpably of more than doubtful identity.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce seems to have really awakened from its long slumber, broken only now and then by a spasmodic nightmare of political brawl, and now rather reminds one of Tennyson's "Day Dream" than of Dr. Watts' "Sluggard." It never rains but it pours, and they have now bent their attention to a number of important subjects. The "Sawdust" question they do not see into any deeper than the rest of us, but recommend a Parliamentary Commission. Certainly some sort of Commission would seem to be advisable. The Chamber has also rightly taken cognizance of the stupid insufficiently-stamped-letter arrangement, and evinces some tardy interest in the prevalent disregard of the general interests of Nova Scotia.