

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 his 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.

Did the gobblers which yesterday appeared at and on the family dining tables discharge their respective duties satisfactorily? If reports are to be believed, many Halifaxians dined on the oldest inhabitants of the turkey yards; and although it is a somewhat tough insinuation, it is said many of them forgot to be thankful. What a pity turkeys had not teeth.

The Khedive and the Egyptian Government are rubbing their eyes in astonishment. Thanks to the careful oversight of Egyptian finances by British officials, it is no longer necessary to scrape the bottom of the Treasury boxes in order to meet accruing liabilities. The long night of deficits and impunctuality is over, and the dawn of a more prosperous day is breaking.

Every one knows how to become a lawyer, a doctor, or a clergyman. There are settled courses of instruction to be followed, fixed examinations to be passed, and certain ceremonial acknowledgements of fitness to be awarded, but it would puzzle most men to know how to become a journalist. Some of the progressive universities and colleges in Great Britain have realized this want in their scholastic training and chairs of journalism are now to be found all the great centres. If newspaper men in this country received a thorough training for their calling, our press would be free from those personalities which now disgrace it, and high coloring would soon become a lost art.

Those who are familiar with the events of the Russo Turkish war of 1877, will remember that for months it was impossible to say which of the oppressing forces would be victorious. Russia finally succeeded through sheer brute force, but her success scarcely warrants the erection of a stone pillar to perpetuate the memory of her victories. The "Nove Vremya" in referring to the recent unveiling of the Glory Monument at St. Petersburg indulges in the following laudatory remarks respecting Russia's military achievements:—"Our redoubtable troops conquered the soldiers of Frederick the Great and Napoleon. They have been in nearly every city of Europe. They saved Vienna and Constantinople, and did as much as Bismarck to create powerful Germany. What architectural column requires the immortal glory of the Russian arms? Is it not indelibly written on the cold crags of Finland, on the Alpine heights of the St. Gothard, at the foot of Elburz, on the sun-burnt rocks of Arghana, and the snowy summits of the Balkans? Has not Berlin paid us a military contribution?" This is the silver side of the shield; the reverse shows bad generalship, and the ignominious defeat of hordes by handfuls on many a battlefield.

Those who regarded the expedition to Mandalay in the light of a water party, must, by this time, be fully satisfied, that to come after Theebaw, is to take up a troublesome inheritance. Burma is ours by right of occupation, but it will be years before we convince King Theebaw's subjects that British rule is any improvement on that of the exiled despot.

The next Presidential campaign will be fought squarely on the issue of protection and free trade. Mr. Blaine has thrown down the gauntlet, and President Cleveland must either take it up or affirm his belief in the protectionist policy. The fact that the Republicans still hold the majority in the Senate, and that the Democrats control the Lower House by but thirteen votes, are not promising signs for the free trade party.

To make Halifax simply a port of call for steamers plying between Portland and Liverpool is simply to ignore her claims as a Canadian winter port. Steamship companies may object to making Halifax the terminus on this side of the Atlantic, but the Government holds the purse-strings, and therefore can settle the matter as it wills. A Canadian winter port for steamers, subsidized by Canadian money, if not a terminus, is little better than a coaling station.

If the enlightening of the world depended upon the torch held in the hand of Bartholdi's Goddess of Liberty, we would now be enveloped in a gloom like unto Egyptian darkness. As a rule, Americans are generous, but the niggardly provision made for keeping this torch lighted, was altogether insufficient, and hence it has flickered and died out. The panegyrics indulged in by French and American orators at the time of the unveiling statue would now make curious reading.

Those who deem the demand of the Irish tenants for reduced rents as preposterous, should read the report of Mr. Stead, of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. That gentleman has been travelling in Ireland for six weeks, and has been afforded every opportunity by landlords, land leagues and tenants, for obtaining accurate data as to the actual condition of the farmers. His report, which is backed up by reliable statistics, shows the losses of Irish farmers during the two years 1885-86 to have aggregated nearly \$70,000,000.

The Pennsylvania Railway Company, which has for many years been running its freight and passenger trains on Sunday, has been trying the experiment of observing the Sabbath Day as a day of rest; and after some months' experience, the directors have come to the conclusion that the company is the gainer, not the loser, by strictly observing the Sabbath. This is the first great turn in the tide of Sabbath desecration, and its moral and social effect upon the employees of the road cannot fail to be salutary.

Many men have made their fortunes in Halifax, but few of them have, like the late William Murdock, set apart a portion of their surplus wealth for the amelioration of the lot of their fellow citizens. Mr. William Murdock was a philanthropist in the true sense of the word, and his memory deserves to be perpetuated down the ages. The suggestion that the portion of the South Common, which has been recently neatly fenced and tastefully laid out, should be called Murdock Square, should commend itself to the benevolent among our city fathers.

What frauds there are in the world to be sure. The latest dodge in Manchester, G. B., for obtaining money, is to approach well-dressed ladies with an envelope containing a piece of sham jewellery and a note, in which the writer addresses his niece, it may be, and begs her to accept the accompanying gift from her affectionate Uncle Sam. The lady is asked by the supposed finder to value the find, and is offered it at one third of the price she puts upon it. It is said the number of persons duped in this way is very large. This is a new sin to lay at the door of Uncle Sam.

Celluloid now enters so largely into the manufacture of useful and ornamental articles, and as a substitute for ivory, coral, and amber, is such a perfect imitation, that few people realize what an immense industry its manufacture has become. These are a few of the articles made in which celluloid is used—brushes, combs, mirrors and toilet articles in imitation of ivory, coral and amber; collars and cuffs, jewelry, cork screws, card cases, soap cases, powder boxes, paper knives, thimbles, restaurant-checks, shoe hooks and horns, napkin rings, mouthpieces for pipes, parasol, umbrella and cane handles, etc., in imitation of coral, ivory, malachite, tortoise shell, amber, lapis lazuli, agate, carnelian, etc., piano keys and organ stop knobs, in imitation of ivory, white and colored letters for signs, monograms and trade marks, stereotype plates and type and wood cuts, moldings and veneers for picture frames, show cases, cornices, panels, etc., in white and colors; mountings for spectacles, eyeglasses, opera glasses, etc., substituting and imitating hard rubber, horn, tortoise shell, etc.; handles for table cutlery, plates for artificial teeth, trimmings, whip handles and pencil cases, statuettes, rollers for skates, spoons and forks, etc. This list might be indefinitely extended. The chief objection to celluloid is its inflammability, which fact should not be forgotten.