

# 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.

Mr. McKinley's little Bill, who has been so precocious a child, and who has been kept so conspicuously before the country, may have to retire to private life. The fond papa has frequently basted that his "little Bill was old enough to take for himself," and it seems since the election that the young orator has expressed himself with much pardonable vehemence. His infantile prattle seems no longer to please the public.

Polygamy is growing more unpopular in Turkey, with the War Minister at least. Countless petitions have been received for the increased pay of the minor officers of the army because of the necessary expense entailed on them by their many wives and numerous families. The pension roll was also daily assuming vast proportions, and was consequently a heavy drain on the exchequer. A regulation is now enforced forbidding polygamy to officers below the rank of major. This partial abolition of polygamy will be most pleasing to the nations of the civilized world.

Notwithstanding all efforts to exterminate the wolves of Russia, the voracious animals seem to be on the increase. The peasants suffer chiefly by the destruction of their herds of cattle. The statistics of a recent year point to the loss of 800,000 head of cattle by wolves alone. In the Province of Oleniek, where both wolves and bears abound, no less than 5,000,000 head of cattle were destroyed in one year, the destruction having quadrupled itself since the year 1876. In the more thickly settled Province of Kazan the destructive animals have neither increased or decreased in number. Great efforts are now being made by the Government to encourage to even a greater extent the slaughter of the herd destroyers.

In many ways Mr. Cleveland is the most independent of all aspirants, successful or otherwise, to the Presidential chair. He has refused, even at the risk of losing popularity, to allow his wife or his child to be made political capital of. He has, rather bluntly perhaps, declined to receive the petitions of office-seekers, and he now makes a vigorous protest against the inroads which the American public are making on his private life. He is perpetually sought out for congratulations for the benefit of curious electors, or still more frequently that a promise may be extorted from him about the grinding of some particular axe. Mr. Cleveland is to a great extent his own master, as he has not "to play to the galleries" in the hope of obtaining a third term of office, so it is probable that he will not wait on the public quite so assiduously as during his first term. It is expected that much of the official hand shaking deemed incumbent upon the President will be done away during the coming year.

A recent decision of His Holiness the Pope will necessarily result in an amendment to the laws of the Province of Quebec respecting public holidays. The Pope considers that the too frequent celebration of church holidays among the Roman Catholics of that province has been a serious drawback to the industrial workers. He has therefore annulled the statutory holidays of the "Annunciation, Corpus Christi, and St. Peter and St. Paul's Day." Notwithstanding the Pope's mandate the holidays must be observed until the proper legislation has been enacted. It would indeed be passing strange if Quebec were to maintain ecclesiastical holidays after the abolishment by the highest power of the Roman Catholic Church.

Sunday, December 4th, has been set aside by the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada as "Prison Sunday," and clergymen of all denominations are requested to observe the day. The Association has issued an excellent circular, in which much interesting information on prison life is given, and in which many suggestions are made on the subject of prison reform. The need of better methods of dealing with juvenile criminals is pointed out, and several plans are proposed for the training of children whose criminal tendencies are their only heritage. The proposed Dominion Reformatory for young men also receives the attention which it merits. As a clear and concise account of the workings, past, present and future, of the excellent association the pamphlet could not be improved.

A quiet attempt has been made to establish a branch of the "Louisiana State Lottery Co." at Niagara Falls, Ontario. A young and propertising lady established herself in a select boarding house, and devoted her time to letter writing and in attendance on box 22 of the village post-office. So large a number of registered letters came daily to her that the P. O. authorities became curious, and when some blundering correspondent addressed a letter to the Louisiana State Lottery, box 22, the mystery was solved, and the lady received a call from the inspector which resulted in her sudden disappearance from the town. It seems that efforts have been made to secure sub-agents throughout Canada, and it is more than probable that many are now successfully at work. The liberal salaries offered to agents are doubtless a temptation to many, but the real nature of the business should be held constantly before the public. We trust that none of our Provincialists will be enticed into any of the tempting and dishonorable positions now held before them.

Prince Bismarck is figuring at present in a most undignified manner before the German people. He seems determined that his countrymen shall recognize his power, past, present or future. He claims that when the late Emperors Wilhelm and Frederick acted as his puppets that the safety of the country was assured, and that under the governance of the present Emperor, who certainly does not seek his advice, his beloved fatherland will be the scene of anarchy and conflict. He takes credit to himself for the confederation of the German States at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, when it is already a matter of history that the then Crown Prince Frederick carried through successfully the scheme for insuring the unity of the German Empire. Prince Bismarck also states with considerable effrontery that the Franco-Prussian war was brought about by a clever forgery which he appended to an official despatch to the French Government. He is willing to take upon himself the responsibility of the bloodshed and rapine of that famous struggle if the glory of the provocation may rest with him. Von Caprivi, the present Chancellor, does not scruple to give him the lie direct in both statements, and furnishes abundant proof that the claims are alike unfounded.

That Prince of blundering speech makers, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, is not an admirer of Canadians. He did us the honor a short time before the memorable Homestead lock-out of July 1st to characterize the people of our noble Dominion as "puny, miserable colonists." It is possible that in respect to country we are more happy than Mr. Carnegie, since as citizens of the Dominion of Canada we can glory in our adopted country, which in turn glories in her sons. Our relations with the mother country are most happy, and we have yet to learn that we are discounted in Great Britain as "puny and miserable colonists." There is no hostility between the Dominion and the neighboring Republic, except indeed of the blatant after-dinner variety. We concede to the millionaire manufacturer, however, that his bitterness is excusable. Disowned and disliked in his Scottish home, in spite of his efforts to obtain a popularity there, an outcast from the land where his wealth has been amassed, the stumbling block of laborers and philanthropists alike, he reaps but dissatisfaction and disappointment in his old age. On the whole, we can afford to forgive the man whose aspirations to greatness have been so baffled by the narrowness of his conceptions of duty and privilege.