

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The rumor that Corea had become a Russian Province lacks confirmation. The Shanghai News, of July 22nd, reports that the alleged treaty between Russia and Corea, whereby the latter was virtually absorbed in the Czar's dominions, has been "capsized." The King of Corea refused to ratify it, or withdrew the ratification first given, declined to put his army under the management of Russian officers, and has returned to the Chinese suzerainty.

It is now eighty-four years since the memorable discussion in the British Commons took place relative to the legal right of Rev. John Horne Tooke to take a place as the people's representative upon the floor of the house. But history repeats itself, and we now have the Rev. J. R. Diggle, chairman of the finance committee of the London School Board, offering as an independent candidate in the coming elections. Clergymen are frequently possessed of talents which would make them eminently successful as politicians, but we believe that the peace and good government of the community can the better be secured by the reverend gentlemen using their influence within the parishes or districts in which they are located, and we trust that the example of Mr. Diggle may be followed by few of his brother theologians.

In very truth we live in a wonderful age, in an age in which effects are traced to causes with scientific accuracy. The scourge of cholera which has been decimating the population upon the coasts of Spain, has been attributed to many causes, but it has been left to scientific investigators to call the attention of the public to the true origin of this terrible epidemic. Cholera, says a writer in the "Problems of Nature," follows earthquakes just as surely as night follows day. The scourge is sure to be found where an earthquake of considerable extent has taken place in the Old World. A comparison of the chronology of these puffs of electricity from the earth with the ravages of cholera, will prove what is stated. To-day the disease is still produced where a few months ago the whole coast of Spain was disturbed by a sweep of this influence out of the earth. The small extent of disturbance on the coast of Italy a few months previously gave an equal extent of cholera in that country. Only a cold season of more violent winds allayed the disease in Spain for a short time. The disease is decreasing in extent in proportion to the acquiring of an appropriate condition of atmosphere. Let every doctor and scientist examine the cholera record and the earthquake record, and deny the statement that the earthquake produces cholera. When it is decided, let them give the records of the occurrence of disease and earthquake. When an earthquake takes place a great puff of electricity is passing out of the ground and it sweeps through the atmosphere, decomposing all the small and unseen creations in it.

It has frequently been asserted that British emigrants, in seeking a new home, prefer to settle in the United States or in a country independent of Britain. Statistics by no means verify the assertion, on the contrary, they prove that the largest proportion of emigrants from the mother country settle in British colonies. Between the years 1879 and 1883, 1,752,416 emigrants left the shores of the British Isles; of these, 718,956 settled in the United States, 99,576 in foreign lands, and 933,884 in the colonies.

The Anglo-Chinese Alliance has completely checkmated Russia in her territorial designs on Central Asia, and the Russian press has not been slow in acknowledging the advantages which Britain has gained by this carefully studied move. French diplomats are deeply chagrined at the fact that such an alliance has been brought about at such a critical time in European affairs, and regard it as a menace to French domination in Annam. Germany and Austria applaud the move, and are evidently well satisfied that Russian aggression and French duplicity should thus have been checked and outwitted.

The Malthusian doctrine, respecting the press of population upon subsistence, may find favour in the eyes of the modern pessimist, but its truth is far from being proven. The ability to increase the productiveness of the earth far outstrips the growth of population; indeed, so apparent is this fact that strenuous efforts are now being made to prevent over-production in subsistence, by lessening the hours of labour. So long as the supply exceeds the demand, so long will there be depressions and hard times. If the equilibrium is to be restored by shortening the hours of labour, the mechanic and the artisan, the farmer and the labourer, will share in the blessings which improved appliances and modern machinery have brought to mankind.

It is somewhat amusing to read in American journals of the harsh and cruel treatment meted out to the Indians by Canadian authorities. The criticism might have some weight were the aborigines of Canada more cruelly used than those of the American Republic, but as a matter of fact the red man in Canada has been petted and pampered to such an extent as to render him almost incapable of providing for his own wants, while in the United States the rights of the Indian have been ignored, and he has been left to the tender mercies of grasping and unscrupulous agents. No doubt we have much yet to learn with respect to the treatment of our Indians, but it ill becomes our brother Jonathan to pull out the mote from the Canadian eye, before removing the beam which now obscures his own vision.

Massachusetts has probably fewer natural advantages than any State in the neighbouring Republic, nevertheless the enterprise and pluck of her people have made her one of the greatest manufacturing and industrial centres in the United States. Her factories, mills and other manufacturing establishments now number 14,352; 30.13 per cent. of all employes in Massachusetts are women, 80 per cent. of the establishments in Massachusetts make ten hours a day's work; 16 per cent. run less than ten hours; 4.93 per cent. of the workers are children. The average daily earning is \$1.23, the yearly earnings \$358. This may be considered a small average, but it must be remembered that included in this are the wages of the women and children. There is no State in the Union where the per cent. of working women is so large as in Massachusetts.

Late advices from Sierra Leone confirm the reports of the extraordinary movement among the Mahometans of the Nigritian regions, extending from Timbuctoo to the west coast. It appears that in 1880 a Mandingo named Samudu, of extraordinary intelligence and energy, conceived the idea that he was called of God to wage a war for the suppression of paganism and the opening of the roads to the coast, which in certain districts have been for generations subjected to excessive blackmail and to the plundering of vagabond tribes. During the past five years Samudu has collected an army, consisting of foot and horse of about 100,000 men. Mahometan youths, wherever he goes, flock to his standard, anxious not only to secure the reward in the hereafter promised to those who fight for their religion, but to carry off the rich spoils of time which these expeditions that battle for the faith are sure to win. Samudu's army is now, according to the New York Tribune, only a few miles from the coast northwest of Sierra Leone. It is said to be his purpose to deal with the Timuck and Sherbro countries, whose constant wars have kept the maritime regions in such a state of ferment that Samudu proposes to settle these districts or to seize the professional warriors who are the chief causes of disorder and transport them to the distant interior, where there will be no opportunity for the gratification of their warlike proclivities. It is not known what steps the Government of Sierra Leone will take in view of the proceedings of this force from the interior, but it is believed that a judicious co-operation on the part of the British authorities would effect great good for the freedom and permanent security of trade in the regions neighboring to the colony.