

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 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.

Trans-Continental travel in Africa is not brisk. Just ten white men have made the trip, and there is no demand for a Commissioner to fix the rates.

The return of American foreign trade for 1886 shows that the exports amounted to \$713,298,666, and the imports to \$663,417,210. As compared with the previous year's return the exports increased \$25,000,000, and the imports \$75,000,000.

Aspirants for literary repute or notoriety now seek to have their manuscripts accepted by the proprietors of the leading magazines. An article to create talk fills some cups of happiness to the social brim.—*Chicago Herald.*

We should like to ask our contemporary the *Herald*, upon what principal of journalism it publishes the letter of a correspondent on Halifax society in both its evening and morning editions, while the brief answer sent by the Editor of THE CRITIC was only inserted in its city evening edition.

One of the latest phases of crankism is that of a well-dressed man who was recently taken to the police station in New Orleans, and charged with being an incorrigible pincher. He delighted in mixing in a crowd, and in the jam pinched any ladies that happened to be near him. Such cranks should be tortured according to their own pastime. Perhaps an extra twist in the thumbscrew would bring them to their senses.

Some of our young Halifaxians who have a liking for politics are agitating the formation of a mock parliament in the city. It might be somewhat difficult to organize such a club outside the various Christian associations, in all of which there is material to hand, but if those who are advocating its establishment are in earnest, they will find the movement cordially seconded so soon as it shall have taken practical shape.

In the March number of the *Atlantic Monthly* is a poem of striking and peculiar beauty, which, by the Boston press very generally, has been taken as heralding the appearance of a new poet. Seldom has a short single lyric by an unknown writer attracted such immediate and flattering attention. The poem is called "Low Tide on Grand Prè." The author is Mr. Bliss Carman, of Fredericton, and one of the Degree Examiners of King's College.

Seed grain is now being distributed by the Dominion Government among various portions of the North West.

Where is our vaunted philanthropy? think of it! Over one hundred persons refused admittance to the hospital because there was no accommodation for them, and this too, in a city that prides itself on the breadth and depth of its humanity. Whether it be in the form of a Jubilee Memorial or not, the extension of the hospital demands the immediate consideration of the public.

A correspondent in the *Halifax Evening Mail*, in criticizing a contribution which appeared in THE CRITIC signed by "Adam Phoolé," has been guilty of a serious breach of journalistic courtesy, in his or her attempt to unearth a "nom-de-plume," and in an unmistakable manner charged an innocent lady in Halifax with having penned the article in question.

Our practical business men will await with anxiety the report of Mr. John T. Wyldé, as to the prospect of establishing better trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies. In this report Halifax and the Province of Nova Scotia have a special interest, and if, through the agency of Mr. Wyldé, a reciprocal treaty can be brought about, his success will deserve recognition. We trust the day of waiting expectancy in business matters has closed in Halifax, and that we now are near to the dawn of an era of push and prosperity.

We are pleased that a Halifax merchant has given us his views on the question of the bridge at Quebec, but we regret that the writer has not thought it best to publish the letter over his own signature, as had he done so, it would have had more weight in the community. The building of this bridge at Quebec was, we have frequently stated, of vital importance to Halifax, and now that the question of its construction is being agitated in the old fortress city, we trust our merchants, one and all, will second the movement and aid in obtaining a government subsidy for the work.

We welcome to Halifax the members of the Provincial Legislature. In the Upper House most of the faces are familiar, but in the House of Assembly there are many who have yet to make their maiden speech in a parliamentary debate. The Opposition looks decidedly lonely, it is in very truth but a corporal's guard, however, it has its duty to perform, which it must discharge loyally, notwithstanding it seems like "kicking against the pricks." The government's strength is its greatest weakness; and, paradoxical as this may appear, it will be surprising if the Premier, when next appealing to the country, is supported to the same extent that he is to-day.

We are inclined to think that the use of both the English and French languages in the Dominion Parliament, and the publication of the debates in the two languages causes unnecessary expenditure of public money. but we are comparatively well off in this respect as compared with the State of Minnesota. In order that the Governor's message might be understood by all the citizens in the State, it had to be printed in English, German, Norwegian, Swedish, French, Bohemian, Finn, Polish, Italian and Chinese. Six thousand copies were printed in English and 300 in Chinese, the number in the other languages ranging from 500 to 1,000. Truly, the people of Minnesota are cosmopolitan in their make up.

The company owning the great Crystal Palace of London is in financial straits, and there is a danger that this—the people's Palace—may be closed, and the 3,000,000 visitors who annually pass the stile be obliged to seek elsewhere for the pastimes and amusements therein provided. The enterprise of the company has not enabled it to keep out of debt, and finding it impossible to pay the interest upon its debentures, it has placed its affairs in the hands of a receiver. Through the concerts and other entertainments provided at the Crystal Palace, the tastes of the London masses have been elevated, and it would be a crying shame after these many years of useful work to allow the palace to be closed, possibly removed, and its site sold for building lots.

It is passing strange that a journal like the *Evening Mail* should have published a contribution which was supposed to reflect upon a certain individual, without first ascertaining whether their correspondent's attack was not in the strongest sense libellous. "Adam Phoolé" is a gentleman, and although some of his expressions may have been carelessly chosen, he can, if needs be, make his meaning so plain that those who take umbrage at his remarks will be more likely to approve than to disapprove of his sentiments. What THE CRITIC has said with respect to Halifax society, it is perfectly prepared to stand by, and while there may be a few snobs and toadies, who look to others for their opinions, who may have disagreed with us, we have received assurances from very many of our most cultured people, that our remarks cannot fail to have a wholesome tendency, even if they have cut to the quick some few individuals.