THE CRITIC.

The Avelfare of the Beople is the Highest Baw.

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THE CRITIC,

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lord George Hamilton, chief lord of the Admiralty, believes in keeping the British navy in advance of those of foreign powers. During the next two years nine new iron-clads, aggregating eighty thousand tons, are to be added to the naval strength of Britain.

The few plain, unvarnished facts we set forth in our editorial answer last week, to the question, "What Do the Friends of Cape Breton Want?" should be fully grasped by every M. P. P. in the Province. We need not expect to have a happy, prosperous Prov. ce, if we continue to make fish of one part, and fowl of another.

There are 800 insane persons in the Boston Asylum, about sixty five of whom are considered incurable. One of the most prolific causes of insanity is the presence of uric acid in the blood, which has the effect of weakening the tissues of the brain, and, as it were, setting it on fire Careful investigations have revealed both the causes and the best treatment of this most terrible of maladies. The human race has no greater hanefactors than those whose lives are devoted to alleviating the sufferings of the insane

Several young ladies, residents of Bedford, have organized in that viliage a class to which they propose giving gratuitous instruction in plain sewing. The pupils, or rather members of this sewing club, are to pay a quarterly fee of twenty-five cents, and are to receive when completed the garments they themselves have made. Similar clubs should be formed in every town and village in this Province. Since the eye of the needle approached the point, hand sewing has been much neglected, but it is still recognized by good housewives as of the highest importance.

Sir William Dawson is the subject of a well-written article in the current number of "Man." The writer, in referring to the success of Dr. Dawson, pays a fitting tribute to the many literary and scientific men that Nova Scotia has produced. He says that "Canada has as yet contributed very little to the world's culture; what she has contributed has been almost entirely scientific. Her scientific men have taken a more prominent position than her workers in any other branch of knowledge; and this has been mainly owing to the personal merit and powerful, ample of the subject of this sketch. There are many people who would probably never have known that Canada existed, if they had not heard of Sir William Dawson. John William Dawson is a untive of Nova Scotin, a province which has produced most of our best literary and scientific names. He was born at Pletou in 1820."

The time for the meeting of the Local Legislature is approaching. We earnestly hope that the rights of neglected Cape Breton will not be any longer ignored by that body. Some of the best men representing Nova Scotia Proper (on both sides of Local politics), believe that in the interests of the Province at large something should be at once done for the Island. Any M. P. P. from Nova Scotia Proper that is not anxious to do all he can to help the Government to solve satisfactorily the Cape Breton problem, is either ill-informed or narrow-minded.

He is a bold poet who attempts to dethrone the living idels of his day. In The Sword of the South, a long remantic peem new running in Literary Life, Joaquin Miller vents his righteous indignation freely upon Generals Sherman and Sheridan. The prelude to Part viii. of the above-named poem (which we print in another column) is a spirited denunciation of the latter general, and displays many of the poet's characteristic merits and one or two of his crudities. In an accompanying note Joaquin Miller describes a curious incident, in which however, his friend the bard does not seem to figure much more admirably than the over-lauded general. We also think it slightly hyperbolical to speak of Reid as the creator of Sheridan.

A few weeks since, a California journal stated that the French and English-speaking populations of Acadia were on the eve of a great civil war. The Toronto Week of October 22nd, is informed by a correspondent on the spot, that "Nova Scotia is on the brink of a repeal agitation, which nothing will stay save a broad Commercial Union with the States." We were under the impression that our people were following their usual avocations in a quiet and peaceful state of mind, but evidently our fellow-countrymen are in for a hard time of it. A civil war is bad enough in all conscience, but if in addition to this, we are to be plunged into the vortex of repeal agitation, it is time that our provincial statesmen abandoned partridge shooting and gave their attention to the deplorable needs of the country.

It is interesting to watch the progress of the woman suffrage movement in different parts of the globe. English legislators seem to be in no great haste over the matter. In Germany the movement is still in a boisterous infancy. At one of the weekly meetings, held in Berlin, for improving the condition of German working women, one of the leaders caused some, excitement by sitting down on a gentleman's knee, in order to make him leave his seat. (A failure, unless his wife was with him). Another of the leaders, while attempting to make herself heard, was marched off the stage by her husband. But in South Australia, a motion was recently passed in the House of Assembly in favor of allowing women to vote in parliamentary elections. In Ontario, people are looking forward to the Municipal elections in January, when it will be seen to what extent women will exercise the newly conferred power of voting in these elections.

Judging by the number of ex-teachers who have become prominent in American politics, one might conclude that the school-room is not an unusual stepping stone to greatness. Since 1880 the United States have had three Presidents whose novitiate has been served at the teacher's desk. In Congress, the members who have tried to teach the young ideas how to shoot may be counted by scores; those whose efforts have been eminently unsuccessful, at least by dozons. The memory of Mr. Blaine's ill-success in a Kentucky military academy is said to have militated against his success as a presidential candidate. The thoughful, patient-looking Speaker Carlisle is said to be a typical pedagogue in appearance. Lothrop, Minister to Russia, managed to subsist as a teacher in Michigan for nine months. Minister Cox taught for three months in an Ohio school, and might possibly have remained in the profession, if the parents of his pupils had not unanimously requested his resignation: But some American statesmen have been successful teachers—notably President Garfield, who was all his life connected with educational institutions.

RIEL.

Louis Riel suffered the death penalty as the rebel leader in a manner which proved his sanity beyond a doubt. The Government of the Dominion were called upon to discharge a most unpleasant duty, and this in the face of an untimely and unwarrantable opposition. The Government allowed justice to take its course, and refused to interfere. It now remains to be seen whether party exigencies will induce the opponents of the present Government to endeavour to strengthen their present position by an appeal to race prejudices. Had Riel been an Englishman, Scotchman, or an Iraliman, he would have as certainly suffered the penalty of his crimes, and we cannot believe that the French in Canada will, upon second sober thought, regard his execution as a blow at the rights of Frenchmen in this Dominion. We publish in this issue, a letter of a Catholic, in which the religious aspect of the question is dealt with in an honest and outspoken manner. Now that Riel has met his well-deserved fate, it is tune to allow race and religious agitations to drop once and forever. The French, as well as the English-speaking population, have an interest in preserving the autonomy of Canada, and it is therefore to be hoped that the demonstration against the Government will be confined to a few harmless parades and effigy-burnings.