

# 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 judging or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after reading due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

For once a French duel seems to have been a rather serious matter. Both parties evidently meant work, and General Boulanger has had a "close shave." M. Floquet's sword penetrated the General's neck to the depth of two inches, between the jugular vein and the carotid artery, inflicting a serious wound.

The tomb of the family of Sophocles has just been discovered a mile and a half from Paleokastron, in Greece. It is mentioned by his biographer, and was built in the fifth century before Christ. It contained three funerals, the first holding the remains of a woman identified as such by a mirror found with them; the two others, from other evidence found in them, are supposed to be the burial place of two young men. There were no inscriptions.

The National Debt of the United States has been reduced during the last year by \$112,000,000, and a surplus of \$97,000,000 still remains. This is a magnificent showing, but it ought to tell with the people against the enormous amount of over taxation and unnecessary protection. How are American industries to be supposed to be in their infancy and to require nursing and codling? The infancy has seemed to us vigorous enough for a long time past, to make sharp and short work of slaughtering industries, which really are in their babyhood, whenever they get the chance.

There are proverbially two sides to every question. The meagre accounts of the difference between the King and Queen of Servia have rather led to the inference that Queen Natalié's high temper was to blame, and added the charge of treachery. *Audi alteram partem* (hear the other side). It now appears that the King is scandalously unfaithful, and betrays the interests of Servia to the Austrian court, and that the Queen's high spirit will neither atone for the one offence, nor submit to complicity with the other. King Milan has (it is stated) secured a divorce from a subservient ecclesiastical official, but the *Pall Mall* stigmatises it as a vile job. The *Pall Mall* is no doubt a reliable where it can get up sensation, but it is probable there is truth in its allegation.

We do not hear much of horse-eating now-a-days; but in Paris, at any rate, the practice seems to flourish, though somewhat secretly. Horse is served up in many of the restaurants. The Inspector of Butcheries has just published a report on the sale of horse flesh in the capital. It appears the consumption of this meat, more or less concealed, has increased to an extraordinary extent.

The disagreement as to the tactics of the Garrison v. Wanderers in a recent Cricket match is to be regretted. The Garrison is reported, wanted a decisive victory rather than a draw. If they had remained too long at the bat this draw might have been frustrated. They, therefore, it is said, elected to go out—leg before wicket, and other ways. There is difference of opinion as to the legitimacy of these tactics. We think all questionable dodgery should be avoided. If an opening be once made, the noble game of cricket may become as disgustingly and professionally mercenary as base-ball or rowing.

The *Forum* says:—Prof. R. H. Thurston remarks that the world is waiting the appearance of three inventors, to whom it will accord honors and emoluments far exceeding all ever yet received by any of their predecessors. The first is he who will show how, by the combustion of fuel, directly to produce the electric current, the second will teach how to reproduce the beautiful light of the glow-worm and the fire-fly—a light without heat, which means the utilization of energy without that waste met with in the attempt to produce light; while the third is the inventor who is to give us the first practically successful air ship.

It is much to be regretted that the mission of some of the Members of the Local Government to the Quebec Conference should be made the foundation of wholesale charges of "drunken shindies," etc., etc. No cause is advanced by such methods of party warfare, and we wish politically antagonistic journals would have the courage to drop them, and the sense to see that they damage rather than further the party using them. It seems to us that very much would be gained if opposing parties could once make up their minds to treat the opinions of their adversaries with decent respect, and give them credit for some honesty of purpose.

We note with pleasure the hopeful tone of the *Zoophilist* agent the annual meeting of the Society for the protection of animals from vivisection. A more successful one it says, was never held. Apropos to this subject, we regret to see from time to time evidences in the press of belief in M. Pasteur's theories as to rabies. M. Pasteur is doubtless a great scientist, but in the matter of rabies he is utterly unreliable. He is like no one in rash assumption so much as he is like Mr. Gladstone, and his great triumph in that particular direction has been to persuade thousands of people that every poor scared and tortured cur that they encounter in deadly fright and friendliness is mad.

From no people do sneers and invectives directed at British rule come with a worse grace than from French Canadians. M. Amyot's would-be sarcastic reference to England as "cette belle-mère patrie" (that step-mother country) and M. Mercier's violence and misrepresentation of Lord Stanley, were alike discreditable, and worthy only of men who, for party purposes, were prepared to canonize Riel. Never was conquered country so generously treated as was Canada by England. Guaranteed the full enjoyment of their laws and language, French Canadians have scarcely been since entered with in any way. It is perhaps a pity Quebec does not afford the rest of the Dominion an opportunity of reconquering her. Of course Mr. Mercier's spread-eagleism is mostly blather, and he and those of his stripe will take very good care their bumptiousness does not drive the rest of the Dominion to reconquer them. But they are an ungracious lot.

We strongly deprecate insult to and abuse of America in Canadian journals, and consider some remonstrances which have been levelled against the practice to be by no means without reason and propriety. But, on the other hand, nothing can be more insulting to both England and Canada than the perpetual vomit of vituperation and falsehood spouted forth by Messrs. Hoar, Frye and other "tail-twisters," and unhappily, the exceedingly unsavory mess seems to be far from repulsive to a vast mass of American citizens. The United States would haughtily resent the slightest interference with her internal affairs, but she practically tolerates the most odious and insolent meddling with, and fosters crime directed against, Great Britain, while she taxes herself by millions at the hands of Bank defaulters because her Irish masters will not permit her to conclude a proper extradition treaty. It must be said the American attitude on these points is not the dignified one befitting a very great nation.