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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.

A man named Graham is reported to have gone through the whirlpool rapids of the Niagara River a few days ago in a barrel-shaped boat, and has come through unhurt. He proposes to go through again. It is surely time that some steps were taken to procure legislation against this foolish and wicked mania, which really amounts to little less than suicide with only the addition of notoriety.

The Anti-Jesuit Act agitation has degenerated into an engine of political party warfare, which is probably the only feature which keeps the mischievous agitation alive. If this is to be repeated, as all such endeavors for making political capital are, it is on the other hand fortunate that the principle of provincial autonomy would be seriously interfered with by any success (which is, however, quite unlikely) that might attend the movement. This feature, fortunately, renders it a very difficult question to make much out of it.

It does not seem at all improbable that the spark which may set Europe ablaze may be struck in Armenia. The Sublime Porte shows but little inclination to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin for the better government of that country, and Christian Armenians have been subjected to outrages at the hands of the Kurds. If this state of things is allowed to continue, through the tardiness of the other powers to insist on the Turkish Government fulfilling its engagements, it is more than probable that Russia will intervene, and she would, we imagine, find justification in the Treaty for so doing.

A Bill has been introduced into the Imperial Parliament for the removal of the civil disabilities of women. The Bill of course owes its inception to the recent judgment which voided the election of Miss Cobden to the London County Council, on the ground that women were not eligible. There can be no doubt that the Bill is a proper and necessary measure. No great proportion of women perhaps are either capable or desirous of filling such public positions, but there are some who are eminently fit, and when these are willing and are sustained by popular vote, it must be felt that the general advance in the status of the sex demands the removal of a disability for which there is no logical reason.

In an interesting article on "Canadian English" the *Week* remarks, apropos of Cape Breton, "another expression often heard here among housewives is apt to strike a stranger oddly. Bread, when heavy, is said to be 'sad.' This is an interesting idiom inasmuch as it is early English." This, no doubt, explains the curious old-fashioned term "sad-iron" applied to the common laundry iron, which may sometimes even yet be seen in trade quotations, and which is evidently a name implying weight.

Our wrong-headed and impulsive contemporary, the *Bridgewater Enterprise*, has apparently not yet recovered from its attack of lunacy, as it is out again in its issue of the 21st with a tirade which is altogether too inconsequent and ridiculous to inflict upon our readers. We need only remark that the "editor of THE CRITIC" is not at all "terribly excited," but somewhat astonished and a little ashamed that any newspaper should so discredit the Press of Nova Scotia. For the rest, if not excited, we are decidedly amused.

Some comment, pro and con, has appeared in the daily press about the Halifax police. From what has transpired it would appear that conduct and discipline in the force are not quite all that might be desired. Another thing is certainly observable. To those who know the drill, discipline, uniform and general get-up of the Police of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, and London, our city guardians, with their nondescript uniforms and undrilled gait, do not present quite the neatness and smartness of appearance we would like to see.

Just as the value of the C. P. R. was to be measured by American abuse of it, so is that of the Anglo-Canadian fast Atlantic service and the China-Japan mail contract to be measured by the objurgations of lines likely to be interfered with. Says the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* in its general news:—"The Peninsular and Oriental Company declare that the attempt to establish a 20-knot service on the Canadian route must result in financial disaster. The Canadian Pacific people reply to-day that they have no intention of being left behind, but look forward to a friendly competition with the Suez route, and hope together to establish a splendid round-the-world route under the British flag. Sir George Baden-Powell also writes that trade in and around the Pacific has so increased as to create a positive need for an alternative route. The contract seems to meet almost universal approval." So, through good report and evil report, Canada advances steadily and irresistibly.

The great strike in London, which began with the dock-laborers, but has since extended to the operatives of almost every department of business and supply, is really a serious matter. Wednesday's advices add to the list coal-porters and mail cartmen, and several other occupations of vital importance to the course of business. The inhabitants of smaller towns can scarcely realize what it is to paralyze the supplies of such a city as London, but this is, in effect, what is being done. So general is the movement that premeditation might be suspected, but it is more probably imitation and the perception of an opportunity to make the power of the laboring classes felt. In this, if it be their object, they will no doubt achieve a signal success, and the experience of a great power will not be without its effect in the future. The dock companies seem to have set the ball rolling by their refusal to entertain arbitration. At the time of our going to press the situation seems really alarming. Every trade is paralyzed, and the four millions of people which London contains will, if the strike continue, be reduced to a condition of desperation. Some means of conciliation will, however, probably be arrived at before matters come to the worst.

The physicians of the Birmingham Lunatic Asylum appear to have discovered "a new use for rabbits." They have turned a number of these animals into the fields adjoining the institution, in order to "amuse the inmates and direct their minds." However amusing these wild rabbits may prove to the patients in the Asylum at the present moment, the experiment is likely to prove anything but amusing as time goes on to those employed about the grounds of the institution, as these creatures multiply and increase at a most formidable rate, and ere long the surrounding fields will become a mere rabbit warren, gardens will disappear, for they devour every green leaf they can find. In Australia, where some foolish person imported and turned loose a quantity of rabbits, they have over run or under run miles and miles of the country, the inhabitants being at their wit's end to circumvent their devastations, and up to last accounts all efforts have proved futile. All sorts of things have been tried—ratcatchers, ferrets, Pasteur inoculation for chicken cholera, hundreds of miles of wire fencing, and lastly, cats. There appears to be more hope of success in the cat attack than in any other of the schemes in the much-desired war of extermination.