

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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The rabbit pest in New South Wales is most appalling. The Government offered a reward of a shilling for each rabbit killed, and after having paid for eight million bunnies, it is in despair, seeing that the rabbits are even more numerous than before.

The abolishment of the duties on anthracite has not reduced the price of that necessary fuel, and consequently the report that a valuable mine of hard coal has been discovered on the farm of Mr. Nix, about nine miles east of Campbellford, in Ontario, will be welcome news to householders.

Those who admire the writings of Edwin Arnold, the well known author of "The Light of Asia," will be pleased that this gifted poet has just completed a new work containing a variety of original pieces. One of these, "In an Indian Temple," is a dialogue between an English official, a nautch dancer, and a Brahmin priest, and embodies some Hindoo metaphysics and moral questions in a light lyrical setting, full of Oriental color. Another, "A Casket of Jewels," brings together in a new form recondite legends connected with precious stones. This volume, which will besides the above embrace many minor poems, will be published in the autumn by Messrs. Tibbner & Co.

Now that competition in the cattle trade with Great Britain is so keen, it is not surprising to find that shippers are crowding the animals into the smallest possible spaces; but it is a pity that our societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals have not some jurisdiction on sea as well as on land. During last month, it is stated, many animals perished from sheer suffocation, sixty, seventy-five, and even a hundred head, having to be thrown overboard by some ship masters. This cruelty may have arisen from carelessness, but shippers with hearts bigger than walnuts should have common-sense enough to understand that cattle can no more live in overheated, impure air, than can men, and they should see to it that the ventilation is adequate.

Quackery is said to be on the decrease in Nova Scotia, and certainly it is well that this is so, for there are many who have been victimized by these charlatans. But there is a new sort of quackery from without which is now being practised to a very considerable extent, and against which our people need to be warned. We refer to the courses of treatment which are ordered by letter by physicians residing in Boston and New York, whose only data with respect to their patients has been obtained through correspondence. We know of one poor fellow who has paid out over thirty dollars to a supposed Boston doctor, for certain treatment from which he has derived not the slightest benefit. This is but one case among hundreds, but it is a fair type of the general results. It is a case of paying out money without receiving an equivalent, and people should think twice before placing any faith in men who diagnose by letter.

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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.

Two successive floods have taught the Montrealers a lesson, and they are now vigorously pushing the construction of a running dyke, which it is thought will exclude the waters. The villages on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence having been subjected to the same floods, their inhabitants are agitating for a similar protection.

Mr. Mercier, the Premier of Quebec, has the happy faculty of taking time by the forelock, and thus relieving himself from innumerable worries. As a Provincial office becomes vacant, Mr. Mercier loses no time in filling the position, and thus he avoids the interviews with the nine hundred and ninety-nine office-seekers who feel that they have a direct claim to the appointment.

Our girls now find great difficulty in obtaining positions in Boston and vicinity. Apparently, the demand for servants or help has not greatly diminished, but those who look for a higher class of employment, will find it difficult to obtain. Young ladies who wish to do something towards their own support should bear this fact in mind, and try to do at home that which they are so willing to undertake in a strange place.

The British soldier who thinks himself badly paid at a shilling a day, which, with the deductions for rations, &c., will leave him five pence, or even six pence to the good, will think himself well off, as compared with the German soldier, who, after paying for his bread, beef and beer, pockets two pence half penny, and still has to provide his kit. We have no longing desire for the life of a soldier, the pay in either case not being tempting, but if we had to shoulder a rifle, we should prefer to enlist in an army in which our services were worth more than bed and board.

Halifax is a well ordered city, but there are several gangs of roughs within its limits which the police are obliged to keep a strict eye upon. One of these, the chain-gang, has been notorious for months, but it is now likely to be broken up. Last week one of this gang severely wounded one of our policemen by throwing a stone with great force, which struck the officer in the face. Flogging is the only punishment that should be meted out to such a coward, and although the whipping post is supposed to be a relic of barbarism, its deterrent influence is vastly more potent than is that of confinement in the city prison with hard labor. When the garroters were the terror of London, and the police of the metropolis were powerless in stamping them out, recourse was had to the lash, and garroting ceased almost immediately.

THE HOWE MEMORIAL.

The people of Nova Scotia have not yet in any public manner expressed their appreciation of the labors of that eminent statesman, the Hon. Joseph Howe. Every one admits that we should long ago have erected a statue or monument that would memorialize the name of this great statesman; but each one has left the task of making a beginning towards this end, in the hands of his friends or neighbors, knowing full well that sooner or later it would be undertaken and pushed to a successful issue.

In common with others, we have long desired to see a public recognition of Mr. Howe's work, but noting that the months and years were slipping by without anything being done, and being assured of liberal subscriptions by a number of prominent men in Halifax, in both political parties, we have determined to set the ball rolling, and so soon as we have completed our preliminary arrangements, we will proceed to push the matter with all the vigour and energy that we can command.

It is at present proposed to erect a ten thousand dollar bronze statue in the square on the north side of the Provincial Building, the money for which is to be obtained by subscriptions of from one to ten dollars. About six hundred dollars has already been voluntarily subscribed, and we have not the slightest doubt but that the balance will be forthcoming at once.

Any subscriptions towards the "Howe Memorial Fund," forwarded to the editor of THE CRITIC, will be promptly acknowledged by letter, and we shall from time to time further acknowledge the same in these columns.

We are firmly convinced that this Memorial will be the spontaneous offering of the people, irrespective of parties, and we are therefore now making arrangements for a general committee, consisting of an equal number of prominent men in each party, said committee to organize for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the Hon. Joseph Howe, and to take such measures as it may deem necessary for the furtherance of this object.

Several representative men have already consented to act upon this committee, and we hope within a few days to have at least a score of our public spirited men thoroughly interested in what we feel certain cannot fail to prove a success.