

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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A submarine tunnel between Scotland and Ireland is again being discussed. The latest proposal is to run it from the Mull of Cantyre to Fair Head in Antrim, about ten miles distant.

We would not imagine that the manufacture of articles in mother of pearl could form a very important industry, and yet in Vienna the crude material costs annually \$1,500,000, while the manufactured product sells for \$5,000,000. Thus mother of pearl becomes the father of wealth.

Among the Transbaikal Cossacks the wealth of individuals is measured by the number of horses they respectively possess, and so great is their number that it is estimated that there are 122 horses per 100 inhabitants. In that country a beggar upon horseback cannot be an unusual sight.

Mr. Feink, of the *New York Nation*, is the author of a philosophic treatise on "Romantic Love and Personal Beauty." The subject matter of this work is dealt with from an ancient as well as a modern standpoint, and is discussed in both its national and individual aspect. How to fall in love and how to fall out of love, in other words, how to win and cure love, has a special chapter devoted to it. Mr. Feink is an able anthropologist, and doubtless should be considered an authority upon such matters, but the student will find that a knowledge of human nature is not to be gathered from books—experience alone teaches.

The King of Abyssinia is not content to have the Red Sea literal under the control of the Italian Government, and he is therefore now advancing on Massowah, at the head of a large army, which is said to be officered by Russians. The Italians hold an Island stronghold in the harbor at Massowah which King John will find it difficult to take, even if he should succeed in making his way to the coast, which Italy will not allow him to do without contesting every foot of ground. Before the end of the month, we will probably hear of battle and bloodshed, but the conflict in that rainless country will likely be short, sharp and decisive.

The sanctity of the marriage tie, which is so disregarded in some parts of the United States that there is one divorce for every six marriages, has hitherto in Canada, with a few exceptions, been very generally respected. Public opinion has strongly condemned the divorce of married persons, and we trust, for the well-being of Canadian society, that it will long continue to do so. Such a spectacle as that recently witnessed in Chicago, when five judges were at one time kept busily engaged in listening to divorce suits, and by decrees of the court made two hundred individuals out of one hundred couples, is one calculated to make sober-minded men think twice.

The Turkish Porte has always had the credit of being a weak-kneed body, but its latest proposition, that Bulgaria should be jointly governed by a Russian and a Turk of princely rank, can scarcely be credited. To be sure it suggests that the joint rule shall last for but three months, and that then the Sobrange, or Bulgarian Parliament, should elect a ruler, but who can measure the consequences of acknowledging Russia's claim to control in Bulgaria. If we are not mistaken, at the close of three months the unspeakable Turk would find that Count Patof or General Procrastinationoff, had obtained such an influence in Sofia as would render the presence of the Porte's representative quite unnecessary.

Why do not the Conservative journals in the Maritime Provinces emphatically express their views as to Mr. Baird holding the seat for Queens County, seeing that he did not obtain a majority of the votes polled. Mr. Baird, returning officer Dunn, and the Conservative caucus of Queens may imagine that honest Conservatives endorse the action they have taken, but if they could know what is really thought of the course they have followed, they would hide their diminished heads for very shame, and call upon the electors to choose their representative in Parliament. Mean, despicable trickery is reprehensible in politics as in the other affairs of life, but if Mr. Baird chooses to stick to his seat he must be content to have the odium of his action stick to him for life.

Previous to its present contract, the gas company of Montreal supplied the citizens with gas at \$1.90 per thousand feet, and having a monopoly of the business, the shareholders in the gas company pocketed an annual dividend of twenty-one and a half per cent. Four years ago, the same company applied for a new lease, offering to put in gas at the rate of \$1.50 per thousand feet, and making the charge per gas lamp \$21.50. A new company of prominent Montreal merchants agreed to supply gas to the citizens at \$1.00 per thousand feet, and making the charge per gas lamp at \$15.00. By some unexplainable means the old company obtained the contract, but an investigation, which is now being held, has already brought to light some curious facts, which indicate that Montreal, like New York, has its aldermanic boodlers. By the way, speaking of the price of gas, why does the Halifax gas company not keep abreast of the age with respect to the reductions in charges. Two dollars per thousand feet is two or three times as much as consumers are charged in other cities. The popular light is the cheap light, and the cheap light insures increased consumption.

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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.

Senator McMaster, to whose princely bequest we referred last week, has endowed McMaster Baptist College to the extent of \$40,000 per annum. This at once places the institution beyond the pale of pecuniary want, and should enable it to do most effective educational work. What would not some of our denominational colleges give to be the recipients of such a legacy? But we must not forget that George Munro's gifts to Dalhousie College aggregate \$20,000 per annum during the life of the benefactor, and the end is not yet.

A French scientist has made an analysis by which he proves that man is comprised of thirteen elements, five of which are gases, and eight solids. The gases are oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine and fluorine, the solids being carbon, phosphorous, sulphur, calcium, potassium, sodium and iron. The average man contains $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of sulphur, and 14 oz. of iron, but the non-average man who explodes without provocation or gets frightfully angry without cause, has more sulphur in his composition than is good for him, while the hard old flinty money-grub has an under share of iron in his constitution.

The railway pass system in Britain has become an intolerable abuse, and the public are beginning to question the right of the richest people in the country to travel over the railways free of expense. Not only do the members of the Royal Family enjoy this privilege, but it is also extended to noblemen and their families, to officials, members of parliament, and other grantees, to say nothing of the poor relatives who are not slow to appreciate the boon of a ticketless ride. The trouble with the pass system is that the public who use and pay for the use of the railways are mulcted for the benefit of the dead-heads.

Mr. Evarts, in a recent speech at Chautauqua, said that the drain of population from the farming lands in the Eastern States had taken from New England two-thirds of her sons. He added: "There will be a returning wave from the West. By and by these deserted lands will be repopulated and will increase in value." This bears out that which we have always claimed, namely, that so long as the Canadian or American West offered free grants of land to settlers, the bone and sinew would go forward to occupy them. We do not object to young men leaving Nova Scotia, if by so doing they can in any way better their positions, but we do strongly deprecate that pessimism which tends to belittle the resources of this grand old Province, and to scatter the seeds of discontent among those who are called upon to earn their bread within its borders.