

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

SEMI-ANNUAL. }
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HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 22, 1887.

{ VOL. 4.
No. 29.

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THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 3 cents.

SAMPLE COPIES SENT FREE.

Contributions should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Replies, 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 for or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after giving due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their own judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

If the picture of Pharaoh in the *May Century* be a correct likeness, he is one of the most hideous-looking characters in history. If it be a moderate caricature, then the heirs of Pharaoh ought to institute a suit for damages.

The *Week* quotes a paragraph from Mrs. Lenowen's "Moscow. the Jubilee," in the Jubilee number of THE CRITIC, descriptive of Russian Lady Lenowen. Reading it again, we are struck with the possibilities lying in the future of a country whose young women of gentle birth are capable of courage and devotion so magnificent.

The British occupation of Egypt has been a blessing to humanity. Though Slavery in the Valley of the Nile has become a moribund institution, and through the Act of Manumission, which has the cordial support of the Khedive and his cabinet, thousands of bondsmen have, by merely crying for their liberty, obtained it. Few slaves are now brought into Egypt for sale, and the trade is practically dead; but in the Soudan and in Africa, it is still actively carried on, despite the vigilance of the British warships which constantly patrol the Red Sea.

No country in the world offers better inducements to the right kind of labor than does the Province of Nova Scotia. True, the unskilled British laborer may not find it a Paradise, but the British farmer with small capital, and the agricultural laborer, would find it to their advantage to settle for themselves homes in this Province, where they and their children would enjoy all the privileges which fall to their lot in "Merrie England," and enjoy nothing of the advantages that they would derive from good prices for farm produce, and good wages for farm laborers.

Although millions of pounds have been spent in building extensive fortifications and mounting big guns at the mouth of the Thames, the City of London still remains one of the most defenceless of British commercial cities; and it is probable that a first-class ironclad would find little difficulty in steaming past the forts up the river to the very heart of the great metropolis. London being within a very short distance of the sea coast, the east and south, is for this reason more difficult to fortify against the advance of an enemy, but Sir Edward Hamley has now thoroughly aroused the London Chamber of Commerce; and as that body at last realizes the defencelessness of the British capital, preparations for the battle of Dorking will take a practical shape.

If we were to accept as gospel all that appears in newspapers, we might with reason conclude that science and skill had so far overcome disease as to make dying unnecessary. One of the latest news items which is now going the rounds of the American press, is to the effect that a remarkable German remedy for cancer has been discovered, in which common sea crabs play an important part. The crab's claws are tied, and it is placed upon the wound. The crab acts by sucking the virus from the wound, thus keeping it clean and preventing the poison from being distributed throughout the system. We give the item for what it is worth, not that we have any great faith in the remedy, but simply to note the fact that the curative properties of the crab are now under discussion. If any of our readers who are unfortunately afflicted with cancer wish to try the crab doctor, all that we have to say, is, that they can, sir.

The *Farmer's Advocate*, an excellent Agricultural Monthly published in London, Ont., counsels the utmost caution in dealing with Commercial Union, and evidently distrusts the motives of the prime movers in the States. The most prominent agricultural gentlemen, speaking in the Dominion Farmers' Council, are opposed to it, and an able paper, carefully prepared, by request, by Mr. John Waters, M. P. P. for North Middlesex, concludes as follows:—"If we as a people are desirous of maintaining our present relations with the mother country, if we are desirous of remaining loyal to the British Crown, if we are desirous of building up our own industries, we will avoid commercial union; for the working and outcome of commercial union will produce the opposite of these." It seems to be everywhere conceded that the condition of the American average farmer is certainly no better than—probably not as good as—that of the Canadian farmer.

The *Week*, of July 7th, notices a work of Prof. A. M. Bell—"University Lectures on Phonetics"—and in doing so, says:—"Among others of our rapidly growing American characteristics, is the least agreeable one of slipshod speaking." But in the same paragraph occurs one of the clumsiest of the Americanisms which continually offend the ear:—"We must, however commend the study of them and all of the Professor's utterances on this subject," etc. The use of the word *of*, after *all*, except under self-evident limitations, is a gross, though very common, vulgarism. In nine cases out of ten, to follow "all" with "of" means the whole of a whole, which is of the superfluity that is vulgar. Of a class of expression which goes into vulgar super-accuracy is "one half," as in "two and one half." Why cannot the crude pedants say "two and a half?" It is certain they cannot say "two and two halves." One of the American pedantries which is fast gaining ground, even in England, is the habitual use of the word "commence" for "begin." We read a novel the other day, purporting to be by Florence Maryatt, in which this word must have been used at least fifty times; "begin" or "began," never, so far as we can recollect, once. We say "purported," for it has been whispered to us that novels of American manufacture are sometimes published in which the authorship of some well-known English writer is assumed. We do not know this for a fact, but fancy we have here and there detected internal evidence of the practice. The instance we have cited is one which struck us.

THE EXODUS.

In continuation of our remarks on this subject it may be broadly affirmed that apart from financial considerations, the disadvantages of residence in the States are not balanced by the advantages. And, although our chief growlers talk as if life were intolerable unless every possible cent can be ground out of it, there really are considerations outside the accumulation of the almighty dollar.

What, for instance, shall it profit a man if, in grinding, driving, slaving, speculating, and hoarding, he grind health, and even life, out of himself? The average of life is much lower in the States than in Nova Scotia, or, indeed, in Canada generally; "the feverish haste and competition," says the *Provincialist*, "driving most into their graves before fifty." Perhaps, indeed, one of the greatest charms of Halifax is that for which she is the mark of continual carping and abuse, the very absence of the everlasting comfortless business rush which gives the Americans bad digestions and sallow complexions, and undoubtedly shortens their days, while quiet Nova Scotia remains pre-eminent for longevity.

Those who, from years of residence and observation, are capable of forming a sound judgment, unhesitatingly affirm the common school systems of the States to be palpably inferior to those of the Provinces, while the higher schools and colleges, even in Boston and a few other favored places, are but little superior.

"The religious life of the Provinces," we again quote the *Provincialist*, "on an average, is superior to that of the States." Infidelity, spiritualism, or other forms of irreligion, if they exist in the former, are in infinitesimal proportions. In the States they are met on every hand. And the comparison more than holds good in morals.

In natural advantages the Provinces are superior. The mining, farming, fishing, and facilities for manufacturing of Nova Scotia; the lumbering