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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.

Mr. Kamper is again in the country. It appears to us that the proposals of the Syndicate represented by this gentleman, and the course of his negotiations should be narrowly watched. Signs are not wanting that a huge monopoly is aimed at, and we are not favorably impressed with the intention attributed to the promoters of the scheme to introduce, "at first," it is cautiously stated, 2000 French workmen with their families. We are rather of opinion that the French element in Canada by no means requires strengthening.

It is much to be deplored that a section of the Canadian press, acting on hasty and incorrect reports of Mr. Chamberlain's early utterances, should combine to weaken his hands. Mr. Chamberlain, though an outspoken, is an exceedingly able man, and it may be depended upon that the Imperial Government has every confidence in his ability. We have little doubt that he will give a good account of himself, the more so that he has a great reputation to maintain. The Toronto *Globe*, which is understood to be largely in American hands, is the most conspicuous in this incendiarism. Mr. Chamberlain ought to be strengthened, not embarrassed, by the whole force of Canadian journalism.

Great things are told, and terrible results foretold, of the powers of the new American dynamic gun, and the American author of "Possibilities," a novel, gives a sensational but well-written description of what will take place in the war of 1893, which is to be the outgrowth of the fisheries dispute, a la "Battle of Dorking." Of course the clumsy Britisher goes to the bottom with all her crew, on the bursting of the first shell thrown fifty feet above the vessel.

"And three times round went our gallant ship,
And three times round went she,
And three times round went our gallant ship,
And she sunk to the bottom of the sea, the sea, the sea,
And she sunk to the bottom of the sea!"

However, the catastrophe is described with considerable power, and the experiments made seem to indicate that the new gun is a formidable weapon. The projectile is charged with dynamite, and compressed air, instead of powder, is used to propel it from the gun, which is of immense length, forty-five feet, we believe.

The monthly statement of Canadian banks for September discloses the fact that the trade of the Dominion has been larger in volume than ever before in its history, while the demand for the capital necessary to conduct it affords employment for available funds at high rates of interest.

We do not in the least see why General Middleton's retirement under the absurd regulations as to age, should affect his command of the Dominion Militia. The recent Order in Council evoked in the case of Sir Edward Hamley, indeed, would meet this case also. As to his successor, should the gallant General be ousted, speculation is perhaps a little "previous." The possible return of General Laurier for Shelburne might make a good deal of difference. Col. Cameron, who has been mentioned, was (as Capt. Cameron,) chief of the Boundary Commission in 1874, and was promoted Major, if we remember rightly, in that year.

We regret to note the death, at the age of 66, of Madame Goldschmidt (Jenny Lind.) The deceased lady, who had not appeared in public for twenty years, was as estimable and charitable as she was formerly famous. Many who knew London and its opera houses forty years ago, have an abiding recollection of the glorious voice and faultless execution which thrilled and enchanted them in those days, in *Amina*, *Agatha*, the *Figlia*, and many other roles, and exalted a somewhat ordinary personal appearance. There are many who continue to believe that in all after years they have never heard another like it. Nevertheless, the "Swedish Nightingale" was scarcely fitted by nature for high tragic parts, and in *Norma* the majestic and impassioned *Grisi* walked supreme.

The incendiaries caught in the act of setting fire to a Methodist church at Kingston, Ont., after having destroyed the Salvation Army Barracks, have been sentenced, one to two periods of 21 years, to run concurrently, the other to penal servitude for life. One of our contemporaries heads this item of intelligence. "A Terrible Punishment." "Terrible" it may be, but, we think, just. The crime is a heinous one. Independently of the cowardice, malignity, and treachery of which it is the outcome, the risk to human life is in many cases imminent. It is an offence frequently far from easy to prove, and where it is proved, the penalty should be exemplary. The severe sentences just passed are another encouragement to the hope and belief that the honey and rose water treatment of ruffianly criminals is an exasperation of the past.

Sir Charles Dilke has not only, as was noticed last week, been calling in question the efficiency of the army, and urging a large supply of new rifles, but, in the series of articles which he has published in the *Fortnightly*, expresses his grave doubts as to our ability to resist Russia on the North-West frontier of India. As a publicist Sir Charles' opinions are entitled to, and always carry, much weight, but we do not entirely share his anxiety on this point. We do not much fear the result of actual collision in the East. We doubt if Russia can bring such odds against us as to outweigh our traditional superiority in the field, and we have yet to learn that our Indian army is below its usual fine condition, while the noble example of the Nizam at this juncture may well inspire confidence in the temper of the natives, notwithstanding the snarling of a portion of the Indian press. Yet it behoves the Indian Government to be wary on all points, and especially to conciliate, by admission to a share of power, men of mark—both Hindoo and Mohammedan.

On the 27th March, 1867, (the British North America Act having passed the Imperial Parliament in February,) Mr. Banks introduced the following resolution into the House of Representatives at Washington:—"That the people of the United States cannot regard the proposed confederation of the provinces on the northern frontier of this country without extreme solicitude; that a confederation of States on this continent, extending from ocean to ocean, established without consulting the people of the province, and founded upon monarchical principles, cannot be considered otherwise than as in contravention of the traditions and constantly declared principles of this Government, endangering the most important interests and tending to increase and perpetuate the embarrassments already existing between the two Governments." The resolution was unanimously passed. The issue with which we are brought face to face is, as we have always said, the insolent Monroe Doctrine, which is undoubtedly dear to the American heart, ministering as it does so strongly to American national vanity. The above resolution shows how deeply the American feeling was stung by the consolidation of Canada, and no time was lost in the expression of its disgust. It remains to be seen whether Canada has enough patriotic spirit to counteract the systematic annoyance and unscrupulous aggression which the United States loses no opportunity of putting in practice.