

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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Words of 72 syllables are rare in any language, but one Welsh word comes up to this standard. According to the *St James Gazette* it is Llanfairpwllgwyngyligertrobogllgerchwyrnbblygog,erbwihzantvsiilogogoch. This awful word constituted the subject of a lecture lately given by the Rev. J. King, M. A., at the Museum, Berwick, in which he showed that it means: "St. Mary's white hazel pool, near the turning pool, near the whirlpool, very near the pool by Llantsilio, fronting the rocky islet of Gogo."

Western civilization is evidently taking deep root in Japan. Christianity is making rapid strides, representative popular government is shortly to be introduced, educational institutions are being remodeled, and the English language and the Roman alphabet adopted, and last but not least, Japan is reorganizing her military force and increasing her naval strength. She now claims to have the largest, most powerful and most destructive torpedo-boat afloat. We may soon expect to hear of the five o'clock tea and the tennis party as all the rage in Yeddo.

Persons living outside of the United States have long recognized that in finance, commerce, and manufactures, the city of New York holds the leading place in the Republic. This great metropolis, cosmopolitan as are its people, is year by year becoming more distinctively American, and even the citizens of the "Hub" and the "Quaker City" are obliged to acknowledge that a port which controls three-fourths of the foreign trade of the United States, and a city which, with its suburbs, contains a population of not less than 2,000,000 of people is entitled to the first place.

The name of Mr. Goldwin Smith of the Toronto *Week* is now spoken of in connection with the next Dominion Parliamentary election. Mr. Smith has, we believe, been offered a constituency in Manitoba, but as he has several times refused offers of nomination from constituencies in Ontario we do not give credence to the statement. Professor Smith is one of the ablest, best informed, and most polished writers in Canada or the United States; and though in many questions, notably that of Irish Home Rule, his views and expressions may be somewhat extreme, he nevertheless commands an attentive perusal from all who are privileged to read his articles or essays.

Again the war cloud rises in the East, and this time appears destined to break in fury over the land before sinking again beyond the distant horizon. The Czar of Russia, who has been massing his forces in Bessarabia during the past month, has sent his secret emissaries to stir up rebellion among the people of the Balkan Provinces, and Austria, which has long been preparing for a struggle with her northern neighbor is doing her best to counteract the seditious influences of the agents of the Czar. Russia and Austria thus stand prepared for war, mutually distrustful and bent on plunder they wait for the first move so that they may let loose the dog of war. The conflict if it comes will be terrific.

Those who have studied the prophecies of Jeremiah will be interested in the recent remarkable discoveries made by Mr. Flindus Petrie, on the Delta of the Nile. Here in a secluded and almost unknown district the energetic explorer has discovered in Tahpanhes the Pharaoh's house referred to in the 43rd chapter of Jeremiah. The structure, which had been partially destroyed by fire, still contained many chambers in perfect preservation, especially in the basement. Mr. Petrie has been diligent in his search for relics and has taken up from the clay beneath the portals several unhewn stones, which enthusiastic Egyptologists will at once identify with those placed there by Jeremiah.

Hodge has gone back to his first love. For a time the promise of "three acres and a cow" induced him to support the Gladstonian candidates, but he has found out like many wiser men that promises and their fulfillment are two distinct things. When the agricultural laborer donned his robe of citizenship he thought it his duty to oppose the wishes of the landlord and the tenant farmer, but he finds in the end that "my lord" and "the squire" are his true friends, being willing to do more to promote his comfort than make promises which they could not keep. The "three acres and a cow" served its purpose during the former election, but it is serving an opposite purpose in those now going on.

The Canadian correspondents of American journals too frequently sandwich their communications with tit-bits, which they deem palatable to our cousins across the border, it is therefore with pleasure that we note the exception to this general rule. Mr. F. C. Brewster, son-in-law of the Honorable Senator Almon, in a letter to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, gives the readers of that journal some wholesome truths with respect to Nova Scotia, its people, climate, politics, fisheries, etc. Coming as these do from an eminent citizen of the Quaker City, they cannot fail to carry weight, and aid in removing the erroneous impressions under which some otherwise well-informed American persons labor.

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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 his journal. Our readers are capable of forming or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper, and after taking due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Of the 505 pensions to soldiers widows President Cleveland has deemed best to veto 90, and as a matter of course the weeping and the wailing of the disappointed ones is heard throughout the length and breadth of the public. How oft is the "still small voice of gratitude" drowned by the wailing cries of the "great monster of ingratitude."

Much indignation has arisen in England over the discovery that French, Dutch, Norwegian, and other foreign pilots, are employed in the British coast and river pilot service. These men it is claimed would, in the event of a war, be able to render valuable service to the enemy, and John Bull who has hitherto considered himself safe in his water bound fortress, is naturally alarmed at the prospect of having the navigation of the coast so thoroughly understood by aliens.

All credit to the people of the United States for the prompt and effective methods adopted by them to stamp out the illegal and unchristian boycott. Individual action is restrained, and individual liberty curtailed by those who wish to further their own selfish ends, the sequel always shows a ruinous failure. The boycott is a human device for an inhuman purpose, and in the end is found to be a two-edged sword which cuts both ways. Under the laws of the United States boycotters are treated as criminals, and are given in the penitentiaries that time for calm reflection which they never appeal to take elsewhere. If boycotters have wrongs they should not endeavor to remedy their grievances by recourse to unjust methods.

It is the proud boast of Mr. O. D. Graham, of Philadelphia, that he has done that which no other man has succeeded in doing: Hermetically sealed in a water-tight buoy shaped cask, he passed uninjured through the boiling waters of the whirlpool rapids on Niagara River. It will be remembered that Capt Webb lost his life while attempting to perform the feat. This is certainly the age of cranks and their number appears to be early on the increase. If Mr. Graham had risked his life to any purpose he could deserve the encomiums he has received on all sides, but under the circumstances we believe that he has only shown his clear title to enter a house. Intoxicated with success he will next be trying a trip over the water in his cooper's craft.