

THE CRITIC.

The future greatness of this Dominion depends upon the development of her varied natural resources, and the intelligence and industry of her people.

HALIFAX, N. S., FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1885.

MISSING LINK.

We have recently received from F. P. Williams of Brooklyn, N. Y., a neat little pamphlet entitled "The Discovery of the Missing Link," in which the author makes a vigorous attack upon landlordism, stigmatizing it as the enemy of labor. Mr. Williams is evidently an ardent disciple of Henry George, but his work has the merit of being less prolix than that of the apostle of the nationalization of land. Henry George and his followers have been sneered at in the pulpit, on the platform, and in the press, but nevertheless, the ideas which they promulgate are year by year becoming more deeply fixed in the minds of intelligent men. Mr. Williams goes back to first principles when he states that it is a position not to be controverted that the earth in its natural uncultivated state was, and ever would have continued to be, the common property of the human race. In that state every man would have been born to property. He would have been a joint life proprietor with the rest in the property of the soil, and in all of its productions, vegetable and animal. There could be no such thing as landed property originally. Man did not make the earth, and though he had a natural right to occupy it, he had no right to locate as his property in perpetuity any part of it. He believes that landlordism in its more restricted, as well as in its general sense, is doomed to extinction, and he might have pointed to the policy of the present British Ministry in the nationalization of land in Ireland as a proof that the dawn of the jubilee was near at hand. The author of the "Missing Link" appeals to the laboring classes to open their eyes in order that they may understand their true status among mankind. When land is restored to the people, when natural opportunities are again open and free to labor, then will labor always be in demand, and then only will labor receive full wages. Mr. Williams is a powerful writer, and never endeavors to conceal that which he believes to be the truth, even though his expressions may sometimes seem harsh to persons of refined and cultivated tastes. He believes the great mass of humanity to be ground down and forced to labor by the tyranny of land monopoly, and he assails that monopoly as indefensible, both in the sight of God and man. We recommend the work to our readers, believing that the perusal of such literature has a tendency to broaden and deepen our love for oppressed humanity, and must therefore impel us to seek for its amelioration.

SOUND PARTY PLANKS.

Were it possible to select from the platforms of British parties, Conservative, Democratic, Liberal and Radical, those planks which long experience has proved, or good common sense would indicate as being sound and reliable, the people would rejoice to see them laid side by side so as to form a new, broad, and secure platform, upon which the great majority of the voters could firmly place their feet. The foreign policy of the Conservatives, the parliamentary and civil reforms of the Liberals, the improved land laws of the Democracy, and the disestablishment of the Church in England as urged by the Radicals, would, if welded into one grand policy, soon secure the hearty support of the toiling masses. Gladstone's vacillating foreign policy destroyed the prestige of England abroad, and did much to injure her reputation among the semi-civilized inhabitants of the Soudan. Since the accession of Lord Salisbury as Premier, the blot upon the British name and British fame has been effaced, not that it is true, by any great victory, but simply by the boldness and assurance with which our foreign affairs have been conducted. The parliamentary and civil reforms which Gladstone has introduced will long outlive that statesman, and will ever reflect credit upon one of Britain's greatest politicians. The land reforms demanded by the Democracy must sooner or later be granted, and with this long delayed jubilee will be restored to the people the lands which were wrested from them in the day when feudal lords held high carnival. The disestablishment of the Church in England, demanded by the Radicals, is a consummation devoutly to be prayed for by believers in the Anglican faith. A pampered church is like a hothouse plant, its growth is that of an exotic, its flower lacks perfume, and its fruit is wanting in flavor. A vigorous foreign policy, purity in the administration of government, nationalization of the land, and the disestablishment of a state church, are four planks which should be spiked so firmly to the scaffolding of public opinion that no party which agreed to stand upon them could fear disaster.

THE ARYAN RACE.

In the early dawn of the seventeenth century, historians in noting the increase of the white race of mankind, which at that time numbered about ten per cent. of the entire population of the earth, saw in this increase a promise full of hope and encouragement, but little did they dream that before the lapse of three centuries the Teuton and the Slave would have so far bettered their position as to include one third of the inhabitants of the globe. The Asiatic hordes which at one time threatened to overwhelm

the nations of Europe, and which, had it not been for the check received by them on the banks of the Loire, would have overrun the entire continent, have now been subdued and conquered; and, with the notable exceptions of China and Japan, the territory of these would-be conquerors is now held and controlled by the despised but powerful Aryan race. Should the white race continue to increase in the same proportion during the coming century, there will be in the year two thousand, between nine and ten hundred million whites, or about fifty per cent. of the entire population of the earth. These figures are suggestive, and point to the ultimate supreme domination of the Caucasian race, and we must not forget that this pre-eminence is due entirely to the intellectual superiority of the Teutonic and Slavonic peoples. North and South America are even now at the foot of the white conqueror. Europe and Australia are now his without dispute, Africa he has girdled with colonies which year by year he is extending nearer the heart of the black continent, and upon Asia he has now turned his conquering sword. With a dominating Aryan race what possibilities are there for mankind? What hope for Christianity and promise for an enlightened civilization?

TORPEDO BOATS.

The voyage of the torpedo boats *Swift* and *Sure*, now en route for Victoria, B. C., demonstrates beyond question the capabilities of these tiny crafts as sea-going vessels. The *San Francisco Alta*, one of the first weekly journals published upon the Pacific slope, in speaking of the *Swift* and *Sure*, says:—

"Two British torpedo boats, which have arrived here in the course of an ocean voyage from Coquimbo, Chili, to Victoria, B. C., are at present lying in the Bay. They are tiny craft, long and narrow and the very reverse of the kind of cradle in which the adventurous seaman loves to be rocked on the deep. Just imagine making a sea voyage of eight or ten thousand miles in a steel boat one hundred feet long by only eight feet wide! These boats came into this port in convoy of a cruiser, but the first two thousand miles they made unattended, and the whole voyage has been one of hardship and heroism. Every time there was a heavy sea it ran over the low decks of these musquito ships, and for days at a time the crew of a dozen men in each were huddled in the narrow limits of the hold, unable to go on deck, and with nothing but cold victuals to stay the hungry stomachs of the tars whose ships were flying alternately through the waves and under them. This voyage is an occurrence of importance in the history of naval science, for it demonstrates the hitherto unproved fact that torpedo boats can make long sea voyages. The *Swift* and the *Sure*, the two torpedo boats now in this port, can steam, the one 19 and the other 21½ knots an hour, and consequently could outrace any ironclad war vessel yet built. They can carry torpedoes at the extremity of a projecting spar formidable enough to blow up the biggest and strongest ironclad, if the explosion can be effected just at the right place, but there is the troublesome uncertainty."

ECHOES AT SEA.

A passenger upon one of our Atlantic steamers was somewhat surprised on his voyage to this port to hear for the first time the echo of the fog whistle at sea. It is said that in the Great Lakes the fog echo is depended upon to give the location of headlands, and although the fresh water sailors may not have attained their knowledge by any very scientific research they yet know how far they can depend upon this phenomenon, and can to some extent, judge of distance by its modulation. The American hydrographic office, in the last issue of the pilot-chart of the North Atlantic ocean, calls the special attention of ship-masters to the interesting phenomenon of fog echoes at sea. It is stated that by experiments which have recently been made, it has been found that the location of a body, whether it be of land, ice or another vessel, may be approximately ascertained by observing the fog echo, and, of course, the danger of collisions greatly reduced thereby. If any dependence can be placed upon such echoes, the dangers of navigation in the North Atlantic would be greatly lessened. We have many experienced nautical men in Nova Scotia, and we should like them to express their views upon this strange phenomenon.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

The United States during the year 1884 added no less than 3,977 miles of railway to its extensive railway system, making the aggregate mileage at the close of the year 125,379 miles, built at an average cost of \$59,000 per mile. The latter statement is somewhat startling, but it must be remembered that American railway stocks and bonds have been beautifully watered, so that it has become an impossibility for anyone to give an accurate estimate of the actual cash outlay. Upon capital stock which represents \$3,702,616,636, dividends to the amount of \$93,244,835 were paid, or about two and one half per cent. The funded indebtedness amounts to \$3,669,115,772, as interest upon which \$176,694,302 was paid, or about four and one half per cent. All things considered, we should judge that railway kings in the neighboring republic, who have shared in the profits of the watering operations, must now be realizing a handsome return from their railway investments.

The Rev. Mr. McLean proposes to change the tribal system of the Indians in the North-West Territory, and to develop the municipal system by forming out of the Government agents, the chiefs and missionaries, a council to discuss public affairs, and to represent Indian needs.