

# THE CRITIC:

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

It appears that there is a schism even in the close Mormon community, a not inconsiderable minority repudiating polygamy, and a conference is foreshadowed on the subject. Meanwhile a vigorous propaganda is being carried on both among the "poor whites" of the south in America, and in Europe. But it is the express object of this note to point out, to the supreme honor of Irish purity, that Ireland is the one country where this gospel of infamy has utterly and entirely failed of the slightest success.

It would seem that the French Government will after all get the better of Boulanger. His flight to Brussels was undoubtedly a mistake, and he has so to speak effaced himself by it. The English press is unanimous in this opinion, and the feeble attempts of socially insignificant persons in London to lionize him will probably tend to bring him into contempt. It is said that he has brought his famous black horse to London, but we doubt if even a pose on that renowned animal in Rotten Row will revive the General's waning reputation.

We have lately had to chronicle several international incidents, as between Great Britain and the United States, of a decidedly pleasant character. Another, however, has recently occurred of a distinctly contrary nature. The Hon. Oliver Mowatt, Premier of Ontario, visited the New York State Senate. A member moving that he be given a seat on the floor of the house was met by a boorish objector who protested against "any courtesy being extended to any British dependent." It is a pity that bores of this description should be returned to American legislatures to so disgrace them.

The Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cambridge, and Lord Wolseley seem to be disposed to wake up the officers of the army generally. The Duke has lately been "hustling" them about bad handwriting, his attention having been drawn to frequent cases of it. H. R. H. considers it essential that a staff officer should write an easily legible hand, and desires superior officers to bear this in mind in their reports on candidates. Lord Wolseley in a recent lecture cautions them against conceit, which he seems to be rather of opinion is somewhat of a besetting frailty among them. As a general rule our experience is of the absence of it, but Lord Wolseley has the wider field of observation, and it may be supposed he knows whereof he speaks, or he would scarcely have touched upon so delicate a subject.

A serious point in the consideration of the question of unrestricted reciprocity, is the manner in which it would affect the price of beef. Chicago beef paying a cent a pound duty is sold as cheaply in St. John and Moncton as is that grown in the province. The removal of duty would, we should suppose, "mean either a cent a pound more to the Chicago butcher at the expense of the people of Canada, or a cent a pound less to the Canadian farmer." It would also mean "the glutting of our markets with United States beef, and the loss of privileges now enjoyed in the English stock market."

Mr. Gladstone, amongst the multifarious subjects he from time to time essays to handle, has lately been busy with that of divorce. In addition to writing on that question in one of the monthlies, he has recently moved for a parliamentary return of divorce statistics. He has also received from Mr. Gemmill of Ottawa, a work on divorce by that gentleman, and having the statistical facts before him, pays the following tribute to Canada in acknowledging Mr. Gemmill's work, "I think it highly probable that the Canadian system, of which I had not been previously aware, is the best, as being attended with the least danger."

The passing of Mr. Weldon's Extradition Bill is a satisfactory piece of business. No matter how ill-advised the Americans may have been in their dealings with this question, it was not fitting that Canada should refrain from doing right. The amendments which took away the retrospective character of the measure can scarcely be objected to. It was argued on the side of charity that many of the fugitives may have raised families here, whose members are perhaps unaware of the real status of their parents, and that the desolation of homes whose younger members are innocent would be an uncalled for cruelty, and on the whole it is perhaps just as well that this view prevailed. The act will do sufficient good if it stops the entrance into Canada of thieves in the future.

The time has in our opinion come when the City Council should direct the City Engineer to prepare a map of the lands in the western suburbs of the city showing where future streets will be needed to be run. At present that section of the city is being rapidly built up. Property owners are in the habit of laying out their lands in building lots, according to each man's individual fancy, leaving spaces for future streets, leading from nowhere to nowhere. If such a plan as we suggest was prepared, and if land owners when disposing of their property were obliged to divide it in accordance therewith, the western suburbs would in a few years be regularly built up and the city would avoid having a tangled mass of short streets running in all directions as now seems likely to be the case.

A few days ago only the President of the United States by proclamation threw open for settlement the territory of Oklahoma, and thousands of waiting immigrants rushed in and occupied all the land suitable for their purposes. Already they have found that large tract too small to accommodate them, and they are threatening to invade the adjoining territory of the Cherokee nation, and to force the National Government to open a part of it for settlement as they forced the opening of Oklahoma. When the Cherokees were transported from the country east to that west of the Mississippi, the government gave them the lands that they now occupy, and bound itself by solemn covenants and treaties to maintain them in possession thereof as some compensation for the whole states in the east from which they had been forcibly removed. The land belongs to the Cherokees by these treaties, both individually and as a nation, and it would be a gross breach of good faith on the part of the United States Government to deprive them of any portion of the lands thus granted to them.

The eccentric Toronto *Globe*, which seem to be easing down on the mischievous Jesuit agitation, but whose approbation is still called forth by every incident that may seem to tell towards the disruption of the British Empire, has been lately gratified by a probably superficial view, taken by a recent Australian tourist who fancied he saw "growing among the young Australians a certain yearning for independence and ultimate separation." This is a very vague and small mercy to be grateful for. "The middle aged" we are told, "and those who have passed that limit, would be found, should the question come to the surface, almost to a man opposed to 'cutting the painter.'" Probably if the Rev. Mr. Hannah, the tourist in question, had made a few enquiries among these middle-aged men, he would have found that they were the yearning youths of twenty-five years ago. Mr. Hannah no doubt mistook, as a contemporary remarks, "a very common and natural phase of growth for an abiding tendency." The action of all the Australian Colonies—except Queensland, which is, like the young men, in its calf age—on the naval defense question, shows plainly enough the small import of the tourist's vague generalities.