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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.

The University of Toronto has conferred the degree of D.C.L. on Sir John A. Macdonald, Edward Blake, Oliver Mowat, Chancellor Boyd, and W. R. Meredith.

We have received from our esteemed contributor "Canadian Citizen" a further letter, urging on the public the duty of energetic action in the matter of protection of life to railway travellers. The soundness of our correspondent's views is unquestionable, and we sincerely hope the public may realize the importance of an agitation strong enough to impress the railway companies with the tremendous responsibilities to which they certainly do not seem sufficiently alive, but we regret that the space at our command is insufficient to admit of our publishing his communication.

The popular puzzle, "pigs in clover," is a remarkable proof of the value of little inventions. Mr. M. C. Crandall, its inventor, had for 20 years had his mind on the availability of the rolling of marbles as a toy, and it has taken that time to reduce the large scale of his first experiments to the dimensions of a hand toy. 300 gross of the "pigs in clover" have been turned out daily for some time, and Mr. Crandall's perseverance and success should give encouragement to other inventors, many of whom are probably at this moment working upon ideas of far greater possible importance. Mr. Crandall has, it is understood, always been a prolific inventor of toys.

The murder of Dr. Cronin will probably help to open the eyes of Americans to the assassination proclivities of the people about whose safety from extradition the United States authorities are so tender, and more than one American paper calls for the suppression of secret military organizations, such as the Clan-na-Gael, which are stigmatised as foreign bodies, troublesome, if not dangerous, to the country. The wild extravagance of assertion which characterises anarchists of this kind is exemplified in a theory put forth in Chicago that the murdered man met his death at the hands of emissaries from Scotland Yard, commissioned by the English Government to kill him, in order that the odium might fall upon the Irish in America. As the Boston Herald observes, such stuff "is too absurd to need refutation," while it continues:—"Unless the law-abiding Irish-Americans will unite with their fellow-countrymen in doing all that they can to discover and punish these evil-doers, they must not complain if the cause that is so dear to them has to bear some part of the odium of this murderous outrage."

Our veteran geologist, Dr. Honeyman, has a series of articles in the *Presbyterian Witness*, to which we are happy to direct attention. The doctor has exhaustively examined the microscopic organisms adhering to submerged cables, and illustrates his articles with drawings, showing, in a form so enlarged as to be readily 'comprehended of the people,' "Cable Creatures" (which is the title of Dr. Honeyman's essays) which in actuality are coverable by the point of a pin. Though giving scientific nomenclatures, the doctor has succeeded in conveying his valuable and interesting information in a style as popular as that of the late Professor Proctor.

Some discussion too place not long ago about the value to the Militia of the present system of rifle shooting and matches. Several prominent officers, staff and others, maintained that the expenditure of the Government subsid did little good to the rank and file, and Sir Fred. Middleton upheld their contention. We believe that, as a general rule, the match-shooting clique is a somewhat close corporation, and we are in possession of specific information that it is so close that young men of the rank and file who promise to develop into first-rate shots are frequently snubbed, hurried and discouraged by the monopolizers of the gains that are to be made out of shooting.

A city contemporary had an article a few days since, in which it was stated that many persons considerate of horses and well-versed in treating them used the check-rein, and considered it in many cases advantageous. We can only say that with a very considerable experience of horses we have never yet been able to discover the slightest benefit from the use of the unnatural contrivance, but, on the contrary, a crippling of the natural use and motion of the head which amounts to a continued cruelty. Our contemporary says that a good deal of nonsense has been written on this subject. Any advocacy of the abomination certainly comes under that category.

Is there not a considerable amount of common-sense in an enactment which has recently gone into effect in Minneapolis, providing that whoever becomes intoxicated by voluntarily drinking intoxicating liquors shall be deemed guilty of the crime of drunkenness, and upon conviction shall be punished as follows:—For the first offence, a fine of not less than \$10, nor more than \$40, or by imprisonment for not less than ten or more than forty days; for the second offence, by imprisonment for not less than thirty nor more than sixty days, or by a fine of not less than \$20 nor more than \$50; for the third and all subsequent offences by imprisonment for not less than sixty nor more than ninety days? The fault of American legislation on moral questions is a crude and extreme severity, but, though this might be susceptible of modification, the principle of this law seems to be sound.

The "rapid transit" so long promised was put in operation on Monday last, and trains are now running between Halifax and Montreal, covering the distance in twenty-six hours. That is for passengers. As to freight, its expedition will depend upon whether sufficient rolling stock is supplied to meet the demand. Our experience does not lead us to be over-sanguine on this point. Canadian railways are notoriously under-equipped, and we are scarcely justified in expecting much better now. Still the forwarding of freight is practically as important as the transit of passengers. We have no information as to what will be done to keep the tracks clear of snow and ice during the winter. A considerable portion of the short-cut passes through the uninhabited wilds of Maine, where it will be decidedly unpleasant to be snowed up for even a few hours, to say nothing of days. There is time, however, between now and the snow to make efficient provision against it.

The *Educational Review* (St. John), in its courteous answer to a Note of THE CRITIC, writes as follows:—"Over 2000 years before the time of Hipparchus, or shortly after the date of the deluge, according to Archbishop Usher's chronology, a little later than 2450 B.C., the vernal equinox would be in the proximity of the Pleiades, near the western boundary of Taurus. Bull worship would account for the honorable titles having been given to the first sign beginning at the vernal equinox. There is a probability that the constellations of the zodiac may have received substantially their present names at even as early a date as the above. This seems to be indicated by some other curious facts. In the ancient cabala of the Jews the bull is the first zodiacal sign. Among the Persians, who numbered their successive signs by the letters of the alphabet, A stands for Taurus, B for Gemini, and so on. Among the Chinese the commencement of the sun's annual motion is referred to the same constellation. In Thebes the zodiacal signs in a great sepulchral chamber begin with Taurus, and so does the zodiac of the pagoda of Elephanta." We reproduce the above with the purpose of making one or two remarks on it next week.