

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
Lord Randolph Churchill	2
The Imperial Institute	2
Australasia	2
Notes	1
CONTRIBUTED.	
Our Boston Letter	6, 7
Odds and Ends	7
No Surrender	7
Safety Heating for Railway Cars	7, 8
The Proposed Art School	8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chuckles	3
News of the Week	4, 5
Religious	6
Poetry—Never Say Fall	6
Commercial	8, 9
Market Quotations	9
Serial	10, 11
Mining	12
Home and Farm	13
Chit-Chat	14

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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 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 burning of passengers and cars in railroad accidents has started an earnest movement against oil lamps and coal stoves in cars. The electric light must come into use on railroads and there must be a stove that won't unlock and spill fire.

Under the title of "The New South," the Southern or Confederate States are being written up in American magazines. For many years after the war the South lay crippled, but its progress during the past decade has astonished even the go-ahead Northern Yankee. Manufactures have sprung into existence and the cotton and sugar plantations with paid negro labor have proved as profitable to the planters as in the days of Pompey and thraldom.

The unification of the German Empire under Prince Bismarck and the policy of preparation advocated by him, have been endorsed and confirmed by the electors of Germany. The septennate, which places in the hands of the government the control of military expenditure for the next seven years, has virtually become law, and through it France has been warned that, in the event of hostilities, Germany will not come into the field with a force of ill-armed, raw recruits.

In future our citizens will have to shave themselves on Sunday or go without, as all the barber's shops are to be closed, and the proprietors and employees in these establishments allowed to enjoy Sunday as a day of rest. The action taken by the Sabbath Observance Society is in the right direction, but they have only commenced the work at their hand. Hundreds of our citizens, either voluntarily or from apparent necessity, do work on Sunday that could well be accomplished in the six labor days of the week. Whet your razors gentlemen, and cut away Sabbath abuses.

The origin of the red herring is traditionally this: A Yarmouth fisherman had hung up some salted herrings in his hut, where they remained for some days exposed to the smoke from a wood fire. His attention was then, through the appetizing odor, called to the forgotten fish. He saw, he ate, and wondered! His palate was so pleased that, naturally thinking what was good for him must be equally good for the King, he sent some of the smoke cured fish to King John, who was then at or near Norwich. The royal taste was charmed to the degree of granting a charter of incorporation to the town of which the humble fisherman was native. The burgesses thereafter were made to send to the Sheriffs of Norwich one hundred herrings made into twenty four pies, the pies to be delivered to the lord of the manor, who had to convey them to the King.—*New York Post.*

In more respects than one, the world is like a bee-hive. The possibilities of life constitute its comb, a part of which is well filled with honey, and the rest is "dry as summer's dust." What desperate efforts people make to get hold of the juicy parts! And, when one goes forward eagerly to meet an apparently propitious fate, and finds it adverse, how dangerously mad or profoundly stricken his soul becomes! This is the bitterness of disappointment, which, in many cases, is worse in its effects than the bitterness of death.

The House of Representatives in the United States Congress has, by a narrow majority, endorsed the Senate's bill, authorizing the President to retaliate in the event of American fishing vessels being denied certain rights in Canadian waters. The bombast which characterized the debate on this bill in the Senate was, we are pleased to say, conspicuously absent in the deliberations of the people's direct representatives. The bill will become law upon receiving the President's signature, but should Mr. Cleveland veto it, as is most probable, we shall hear nothing more of this method of settling an international difficulty.

"Imperial Federation," the journal of the Federation-League, makes a suggestion that is worthy the earnest consideration of the Imperial and Colonial Governments. It is, that a census of the British Empire be made in 1891, and that the classification of the data to be collected should be similar in each section of the empire. Should this suggestion be carried out, it will be possible to make comparisons and deductions which, from the varied manner in which the statistics are now collected, is quite impossible. The census would probably prove the empire's population to be not less than 350,000,000, nearly one-fourth of the entire population of the globe.

It has been predicted that within five years the magnesium light will be as familiar a sight in many places as the electric light is to-day. Only the high cost of magnesium has hitherto kept it from extensive use, and its price, which was \$40 a pound a few years ago, is said to have been reduced to \$8 a pound by a new German process, with the prospect of still further cheapening. A wire of moderate size equals the light of seventy-five stearine candles, making the cost at present but little more than that of gas, while no expensive works or street mains are required for its use. The magnesium is simply burned in lamps provided with clock-work movement to feed the ribbon of metal regularly.

A new Portia, who defended, however, not her lover, but her own father, has appeared at Montpellier. A farmer living near that town had been tried and condemned for breach of trust. He made an appeal, which was granted, and on the day appointed for its hearing he walked into court accompanied by his daughter, a tall, good-looking, and intelligent young woman, about twenty-six years old. To the surprise of the judges, the young woman opened her father's case in a masterly manner, argued the defence with the skill of a practised lawyer, and finally gained for her client a verdict of acquittal. The improvised legal practitioner in petticoats then walked triumphantly out of court, hanging on the arm of the venerable agriculturist, her parent.

The proposal of Mrs. Leonowens and others, that the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen be commemorated in Halifax and in Nova Scotia by the establishment of the "Victoria Memorial Art School," is one that has our most hearty endorsement. Give our citizens and citizenesses a chance to receive practical instruction from competent masters and an opportunity to study the works of the greater painters, and we have faith in their ability to profit by such advantages. Culture in this direction will elevate the tone of society, broaden and deepen the capacity for enjoyment, and give to the minds of our youth a new and desirable bent. We trust Mrs. Leonowens and those who favor this proposition, will use the artillery of the press to bombard Halifax, and that its citizens will be laid under tribute for a sufficient sum, to give the proposed new enterprise a healthy start. Fire a volley.

During the recent political contest one hundred Liberals and an equal number of Liberal-Conservatives in Kingston entered into a compact to forfeit \$200 each should bribery or intimidation be used by either side. The result was a fair, square election, in which "boudle" had no part. Let the honest men in our Nova Scotian constituencies follow the example of Kingston in future contests, and so stamp out the unblushing bribery which is now, alas, so generally practised. In one county we hear that federal votes are put down at five dollars each, while votes in provincial contests are sold for two dollars. In another that the average cost of the purchasable votes stood at \$6 50, and in still another, that lists were prepared of government officials, and that these were warned if they did not vote as desired, their tenure of office would be brief. Such a state of affairs is a blot upon our vaunted onlightened civilization, but unless both parties unite to crush the evil, it will be winked at by partizans who are otherwise honest men.