

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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THE CRITIC,

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

PRIZE—TWENTY DOLLARS.—In order to secure for the Christmas Number of THE CRITIC first-class reading matter, we have decided to offer a prize of twenty dollars for the best story, with the understanding that we are at liberty to select and publish the contributions of those who may compete for the prize. The story must not exceed three thousand words, nor be less than fifteen hundred. The regular staff contributors for THE CRITIC will not compete for the prize. The stories will be submitted to a committee of three gentlemen, and the prize will be awarded by them to the person sending the best. The *nom-de-plume* of the writer should be forwarded with the manuscript, the writer's real name being withheld until the *nom-de-plume* of the prize-winner is announced in THE CRITIC. Stories to be forwarded to the Editor of THE CRITIC, 161 Hollis Street.

The agriculturists of Great Britain are again making a determined effort to encourage the growing of sugar beets. France and Germany now hold the monopoly of the business in beet root sugar, and they have by lavish bounties succeeded in crippling the sugar trade of the West Indies. Sugar beets grown at home from the panacea prescribed by Rusticus.

Twenty-five years ago Japan was without a newspaper, to-day more than two thousand daily and weekly papers are issued from the press. The Star of Hope is rising for the Great Britain of the Pacific. With the spread of knowledge, the adoption of the English language, and the christianizing of her people, Japan has before her a glorious future.

Rochefort, the most demagogic of French demagogues, is endeavoring through the columns of the journal which he edits, to poison the French mind against the British, but he rather oversteps the mark when he endeavors to hold the British ministry responsible for the fate of Olivier Pain. He might with as good reason have held Gladstone responsible for the death of the Mahdi.

The members of the International Peace Society, resident in Great Britain, are endeavoring to use their influence in the coming elections with a view to having returned as members of Parliament, men pledged to oppose war, to disband the army and destroy the navy. The world is certainly full of cranks, and these misguided and well-meaning lunatics, are but evidences of this fact. With the navy destroyed they forget to tell us how long Britain would remain mistress of the sea. Standing armies and naval squadrons may be evils, but they are necessary evils. When people learn to live in peace without the corrective influences of the jails and penitentiaries, it will be time enough for nations to follow their example.

Gladwin Smith says that, taken all in all, the people of Ontario are as intelligent and prosperous as those of any other part of the world.

The Quebec *Chronicle* says, that of the hundreds of museums of natural history, etc., in North America, three only are equal to the Laval Museum, Quebec.

On the 20th of June next, the Queen will enter upon the 50th or jubilee year of her reign, and for the second time in the nineteenth century the British people will be called upon to celebrate the jubilee of their sovereign. Would it not be well if some of our loyal citizens would lead a subscription list for the erection of a suitable testimonial in our Public Gardens, that might fittingly commemorate the jubilee.

An M. D., not resident in Chester, has called our attention to an article which appeared in the Halifax *Herald* of the 2nd inst., in which an M. D. of Chester undertakes to severely criticise THE CRITIC, for admitting to its columns a communication signed “Assegais.” We recognize that in the question under discussion, viz.: “The Medical College,” opinions may not always coincide, and although we may endorse the views of this or that contributor, we are prepared to publish communications bearing upon either side of the question.

419 of the 500 members of the House of Lords own in the aggregate 15,000 acres of land, from which they derive a revenue equivalent to \$5 per acre. The members of the Senate in the United States are said to be worth, in property, railway and bank stocks, etc., three times as much as the members of the House of Lords. Republican institutions must offer facilities for the acquisition of wealth, unknown to the older and more conservative communities.

The Grey Nuns of Montreal have, during the recent epidemic of small-pox, proved themselves to be among the most self-sacrificing of sisterhoods. A noble band of women, ever ready to minister to the wants of their fellow-beings, regardless of the dangers to which they are exposed, are certainly a credit to the Church with which they are allied. Sisterhoods are frequently maligned, but the Grey Nuns of Montreal are recognized by all creeds in that city as faithful and devoted workers.

The keen eye-sight of savages and semi-barbarians has frequently been noticed by travellers, but we have never yet understood why civilization which strengthens our mental vision, should tend to diminish our natural sight. An American traveller who recently visited Zululand, states that upon looking through a field glass, he observed at a great distance two figures which appeared to him to be those of a man upon horseback accompanied by a companion on foot. Much to his surprise several natives standing by, perceived the figures without the aid of the glass, recognizing the features to be those of a man and woman well known in the locality. The story is vouched for, but perhaps there may be some who cannot see it.

Those who have read the interesting work of Jules Verne, “Three Thousand Leagues Under the Sea,” must have felt that the wonderful theorist and story teller had grasped an idea, which would, some day, take practical shape. From late advices we understand that Mr. Nordenfelt has succeeded in making a cigar-shaped vessel, capable of remaining beneath the surface of the water for a period of six hours, and travelling under water at the rate of fourteen knots per hour. The vessel, which is 64 feet long and 9 feet in diameter at the centre, is propelled by a screw in the stern, which is driven by steam stored at the surface of the water, side paddles are used in raising or lowering the vessel in the water, and she is constructed so as to withstand the pressure at 100 feet beneath its surface. With such a craft at his disposal, Ignatius Donnelly would soon be able to verify or disprove his Atlantine theories.

While Russia is endeavoring to prevent an alliance between Turkey and Britain, Germany is engaged in a similar task with respect to France and Russia, and France in her turn seeks to plunge Spain into a war with Germany. The chess board of European politics is certainly an interesting one, but the student who watches the moves can fairly forecast the outcome of the present situation. The three great Emperors have met, kissed and sworn eternal friendship; but each in his inmost heart is endeavoring to outwit his fellow sovereigns. At present the strained relations between Germany and Spain would indicate an outbreak of hostilities, but there are two good reasons for believing that war will not result. King Alfonso is personally opposed to such a war, knowing well that the defeat of the Spanish arms, which would inevitably follow upon war, must result in revolution and the overthrow of his dynasty. Bismarck recognizes that the formation in Spain of a second Latin republic would menace the monarchical institutions of Germany, and would render the very existence of these institutions very precarious. We may therefore feel certain that no outbreak of war between Spain and Germany is imminent.