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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 judging for 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.

A century ago, the population of Europe was about 150,000,000, now it is over 350,000,000.

We agree very decidedly with the *Chronicle* in deprecating the practice of rewarding Government officials with shares of the fines imposed in connection with seizures and violations of the revenue laws. The system is absurd.

"The American Nation," says the *St. John Globe*, on the 4th July, "is celebrating its birth-day. It is 112 years old, and very healthy," which nobody can deny." We only venture to whisper that the Dominion of its twenty-first birth-day is quite as healthy, considering its age and (fast-increasing) population.

The *Week*, in an excellent sketch of the life of the Hon. William Douglass, perpetrates, apparently without perceiving it, a stinging sarcasm. "Party lines"—it says—"are so strictly drawn that our public men have no chance to make headway, unless they are willing to be branded with the trade-mark (italics ours) of one or other of the political parties." Just as if it is a trade mark, and the mark of the meanest, the dirtiest, and the most trade the world has seen.

A city contemporary had an item last week, on the rumored succession of Major-General Cameron to Major-General Oliver, as Commandant of the Kingston Military College. It is to be inferred, that if General Cameron were not Sir Charles Tupper's son-in-law, he would not be persistently called "Mr." Cameron. It is assumed that he "is wholly unfit for the position." We have no particular regard for General Cameron, but he is a scientific officer, and commanded the British side of the International Boundary Commission in 1874, carrying out the work of delimitation with every credit. He is not "Colonel Cameron," but retired from the Artillery in the rank of Major-General. The College is, no doubt, best commanded by an Engineer officer, but that is no reason for depreciation of merit.

They are getting a taste of the "no-rent" agitation in the States. Father McGlynn is the chief promoter. Security in the possession of property lies at the root of society, and is of as much consequence to the owner of a cottage as to the proprietor of a thousand acres. Agitation has destroyed the value of property in Ireland, but we doubt if the United States will put up with the socialistic theory, or would submit to such legislation as swept away from the Irish landlords a capitalised value of \$70,000,000 in five years.

A number of teachers have put themselves on record in regard to the necessity of scientific temperance teaching in the schools. That is the true method. Children so instructed will not require arbitrary Acts of Parliament to coerce them into morality; and when we consider that Canada already stands first among the nations for sobriety, which is entirely due to the lively moral sense of the great mass of her people, it may safely be predicted that the rising generation will witness an immense advance in voluntary self-restraint.

It is noticeable as an instance of the desirability of voluntarism as a general principle in religion and morality, that the experiment of making attendance at religious services voluntary at Harvard, which was begun two years ago, has been justified by ample success. That the general sense of duty and propriety is largely on the increase in the world may be taken for granted, the compulsory measures advocated by aggressive propagandists of all sorts are therefore not only a want of faith in moral suasion, but are insulting to the sense of individual independence and rectitude.

The Japanese are certainly the most remarkable people in the world. They seem to develop to an extraordinary extent intellectual capacity, while they are singularly devoid of the sentiment of religion. Christianity is, it seems, to be authoritatively laid down as the national religion; and, it appears, by reason of any religious conviction whatever, the Japanese savants professing themselves utterly indifferent on that point, but because Christian civilization, Christian sentiment, and Christian ethics, are gaining the mastery, and that it is the religion of the most highly civilized countries.

"A paper in Winnipeg," says the *St. John Globe*, "took advantage of Dominion Day to make a strong declaration in favor of Canadian Independence." Well and good. But is it possible that the *Globe* is veering round from vassalage to the States to Independence? Of the two, we should prefer the latter. "And there are a very great number," the *Globe* continues, "in the great West, who would like to take a hand in at the coming Presidential election in the United States. The West is truly a great country." If a plebiscite were taken in the great West we fancy the *Globe's* annexationism would be found to be altogether "too previous."

The *Miramichi Advance* has got a little mixed about the end of the century, yet the thing is as plain as a pike staff, and the *St. John Globe* and the *Journal of Commerce* are clearly right. The *Advance's* argument that the end of the year one ended the first year of the world's existence is not only utterly irrelevant, but is the baldest of truisms. "Why should it require," the *Advance* continues, "a minute more than a full 1900 years to complete 19 centuries?" Why, indeed? But 1899 years are not 1900, therefore the century is not completed until the 31st December of that year. The twentieth century does not begin till the 1st January, 1901, not 1900.

The verdict in Mr. O'Donnell's suit against the *Times* has been given in favor of the defendant. Of course there is the usual brazen blare that certain letters produced were forgeries, and Mr. Parnell thought it necessary to emphatically assert his ignorance of the doings of murderers. Few people, however, are silly enough to believe that the *Times* would commit itself to forgery, while the persistent avoidance on the part of Mr. Parnell and others, of any legal steps on their own behalf, is far more significant than the most energetic asseverations. The wealthy *Times* is a splendid mark for a libel suit, or a dozen of them, and no one will doubt that men of the calibre of many of Mr. Parnell's co-adjutors would jump at the chance of bleeding the Thunderer if they dared. The general impression will be that of a complicity of which they dare not challenge investigation.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

The world has at present two great Republics—France and the United States—and it may be useful to contrast their methods for electing a Chief Magistrate.

The Frenchman is universally admitted to be the most volatile, and, to that extent, the most unreliable person on earth. This may be the truth.