

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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A new waggon road is now being made from Jerusalem to Jericho, which is to pass near Elijah's cave. The hungry traveller may not find a flock of ravens ready and willing to supply his wants, but he, at least, may hope to fall in with a good Samaritan, who, like his illustrious ancestor, will be prepared to donate to the wayfarer a bountiful supply of oil and wine.

The New England fishermen are sending petitions to Congress, praying that the fishery clauses of the Treaty of Washington be not renewed. Have they forgotten, that if we are to do without the American fish market, Americans must learn to do without our fishing grounds? We pointed out last season that there might be a profitable trade in winter between the Maritime Provinces and Boston in fresh fish, especially smelts. One day last week, five tons of smelts, from Shediac, N. B., for Boston, passed through Moncton. Nova Scotia can have a large share of this trade by making an effort in time.

The recent changes in the Dominion Cabinet have been severely criticized by that portion of the press opposing the present Dominion Government, and yet, if all that these journals have said concerning Sir Alexander Campbell, Sir Leonard Tilley, and Sir David McPherson, be true, the retirement of those gentlemen should be regarded as in the best interests of the country, while the acceptance of portfolios by such men as the Honorables Thompson, Foster, and White, should be hailed with pleasure; unfortunately, party lines in this country are drawn so tight that ability and character appear to count for naught.

Quite a lively agitation is now going on in the northern part of Cape Breton over a proposed railway from Margaret to Baddeck. The proposed line will tap the fine coal areas of Inverness, and traverse one of the finest agricultural districts in the Island, or perhaps in the Province. This line, when completed, will be about thirty-five miles in length, and will be built very cheaply, as the route lies over a level valley, that almost appears to have been designed by nature for a road bed. The shallow and unprotected harbors of Inverness County have not warranted the development of the fine coal mines of that region. Taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances of these districts, there is not a local line in the Maritime Provinces that earns anything like the revenue that the proposed road would be likely to earn. The people are taking a lively interest in the project, and are determined never to drop the agitation until the road is completed.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Japanese Christians are said to be delighted with the Book of Daniel, which has been translated into their language.

The cost of educating the children in the public or board schools of England is steadily increasing, now averaging per pupil \$15.27 per annum.

This is truly an æsthetic age. Americans point with pride to the White House, Venezuelans to the Yellow House, and the people of the Argentine Republic to the Red House. The people of Canada are behind the age, not having yet reached this height of æstheticism.

If it cannot be accomplished soon, we hope to see the two school terms harmoniously blended after the next meeting of the Prov. Ed. Association. From the necessity of the change, and from the good sense of those controlling, we feel that the change will not be unduly delayed.

Nova Scotians are pushing their way to the front. The appointment of Hon. A. W. McLellan, as Minister of Finance, will be recognized by his friends as most complimentary to that gentleman's executive ability. We congratulate the Minister upon his new appointment.

Henry M. Stanley, who has had seventeen years experience in the wilds of Africa, states that no savage would attack a fellow-being, with his hands folded, taken literally, this statement expresses but a truism. The idea, however, is, that those who fold their hands in the presence of an enemy are safe from attack.

President Warren was the first to advance the idea that the garden of Eden was located at the North Pole. His theories are now being promulgated in the United States by scores of infatuated believers, and another Arctic expedition is already planned. This appears to be an age of rampant fanaticism, but the fever of fanatics may abate amid the ice and snow of an Arctic winter.

The message of President Cleveland is somewhat lengthy, but it has about it the ring of Statesmanship. The Indian, Mormon, and Silver questions, are disposed of in such a manner as should satisfy the American people. The tariff is touched upon gingerly, so as to leave the impression, that, as an avowed free-trader, the President has a fancy for incidental protection. With a civil service reform, the President deals comprehensively; and upon the question of the fisheries, he fulfils his promise by the recommendation of a joint British and American Commission, to take into consideration the settlement of the ocean.

## PROFESSIONAL EXCLUSIVENESS.

The Legislature of this Province, for many years, has pursued the policy of permitting each profession to prescribe rules for the admission of those who wish to become members thereof. The fruits of such a policy, in view of recent events, show that the wisdom of the policy may well be doubted.

It will be well to remember, at the outset, that the public at large has rights with regard to the filling of the learned professions which cannot be overlooked. This being so, the public should be consulted, not only as to the method of such admission, but also as to the persons who should be admitted thereto.

To the physician and surgeon is entrusted the lives and limbs; to the lawyer the temporal interests; and to the clergyman the spiritual welfare of the people. This being the case, the people have a deeper interest than the professional men in stipulating, to whose care should be entrusted their lives, their property, and their eternal welfare. They have a deep interest not only in so stipulating, but, as their professions are entirely recruited from the ranks of the people, in further seeing that no unjust or onerous conditions are imposed to close the professions to that free and open competition which alone can keep them vigorous, pure and healthy.

A few years ago, the Law Society attempted to impose a condition, involving a money qualification, which met with a vigorous protest from the students of that day, and was abandoned. A year ago, the medical profession secured a law that really puts in their own hands the power to prevent absolutely any one from being admitted to practice medicine in this Province, except at the sweet will of some thirteen wire-pullers of that profession.

The law also gives to the Medical Board what, to every fair-minded man would appear to be arbitrary powers to restrain the practice of medicine in this Province by any person, no matter how proficient and learned he may be.

This Board has power to say what evidence of qualification shall be adduced before it, and is itself the sole judge of the proficiency of the candidate. It can refuse to register, and its decision is final, and cannot be reviewed by any court. It, or a medical practitioner, alone can punish any person seeking to practice medicine. As to how this power is used, we will not undertake to say, except that many are the complaints of injustice and partiality. It is sufficient for the public to know that a small coterie of interested men have almost unlimited power with regard to this important matter. We would warn professional men, that any course of conduct other than that which is fair and just, will eventually result in the loss of all power. Arbitrary tyranny, if such exists, can never take root, or flourish long in the free soil of America.