

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

EDITORIAL.	
The Exodus.....	1, 2
Nova Scotia as a Health Resort.....	2
Russia, France and England.....	2
Notes.....	1
FINISHED.	
Poetry—To a Lost One.....	6
To the Far North.....	6, 7
Living.....	7, 8
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Chit-Chat and Chuckles.....	3
News of the Week.....	4, 5
Religious.....	6
Poetry—Not Thou but Me.....	6
Musical Echoes.....	8
Commercial.....	8, 9
Market Quotations.....	9
Social.....	10, 11
Mining.....	12, 13
Home and Farm.....	15

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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 *American Magazine* for July is in our hands with a varied table of contents, and a full variety of subjects is already indicated for August. Edgar Fawcett's novel, "Olivia Delaplaine," is the chief serial.

We are sorry to observe the adoption by the *Toronto Grange Bulletin* of a tone calculated to engender antagonism between the farming and manufacturing classes. This is not the way to build up a country self-sufficing in every branch of life.

The *Chicago Canadian-American* says: "The *Toronto Mail* dares not note the articles that appear in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Inter Ocean* on Commercial Union. . . The *Chicago* papers regard a North American Zollverein as the first step towards political union; hence their joy over the agitation prompted by Erasmus Wiman and a coterie of Ohio capitalists in their own interests. Watch sharp; he's a cunning dog."

Without, indeed, pronouncing an opinion on a question which demands the fullest discussion and the deepest consideration, there seem to be some indications that Mr. Wiman, who is not a farmer, but a capitalist and a dealer in stocks, and who, it is probable, has not really much in common with the Canadian farmer, has his own particular axe to grind, or at least an axe owned in common with some such Ring as that alluded to above. It seems certain that the condition of the farmer of the Eastern States, at all events, is not such as should induce the Canadian farmer to desire to cast his lot with him. Mr. Wiman seems, to some extent, to have caught the ear of the Ontario farmer, but it appears to us that it behooves the Dominion farmer at large to exercise the greatest caution in committing himself to the Wiman propaganda. The *Canadian American* does not hesitate to use strong language, and to say, "Now the question is, will certain deluded Canadian farmers fall into the trap laid for them by the Ohio clique?"

At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign the tonnage of British steamships was under a hundred thousand tons. It is now about four millions. But, just as the enormous growth of railways has not prevented a large increase in the traffic of the canals, so has the increase of steam shipping left room for an addition of fifty per cent. to the tonnage of British sailing vessels. But this is not all the gain. Improvements in marine engines enable each ton of shipping to be moved at a greatly increased rate and diminished cost, while the Suez Canal, to which England supplies four-fifths of its traffic, has still further economized time and labor.

In the connection of commerce, opinion in the old country as to the C. P. R., is thus embodied in the *Times'* summary:—"By far the most important achievement of recent years is the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the establishment of a line of steamers connecting its western terminus with India, China and Japan. We thus gain a shortened route to the East, passing entirely over great ocean highways and British territory, instead of through a landlocked sea and a narrow gut, which accident or design may at any moment render impassible. In view of the expansion of commerce during the last half-century, and of the immense undeveloped resources of Canada, it would be rash to set any limits to the future possibilities of this great Imperial highway."

We referred, with regret, last week to the meagre support accorded to the Keene Company. It is with a feeling of humiliation that we now advert to the fact that the closing night of their performances was stigmatized by the return of their money to those who attended, the number being so small that those who were present unanimously pocketed their disappointment and declined to insist on the performance they came to witness. Making every allowance for fine weather and many social engagements consequent on it, such a result to the endeavors of a really good company is discreditable to a city of the standing and pretensions of Halifax, and cannot but operate as a deterrent to high-class dramatic enterprises for some time to come.

"Save me from my friends." If dismissal, or any other inconvenience should result to the policeman whose flagitious utterances at the Art Exhibition have excited more comment than they are worth, he may thank the blatancy of an obscure sheet, which does not represent the opinions of respectable Irishmen. Nothing is more lamentable than the ignorant credulity which is so easily imposed upon by those who cater to the criminal passions engendered by a national question in its baser partizans. It was not our intention to refer at all to this "tempest in a teapot," but it has been so much commented upon by the responsible press, that a representative of THE CRITIC waited on His Worship the Mayor, that our ground might be certain in any remarks we might see fit to make. The upshot is this: The utterance complained of was distinctly the man's open advocacy of daggers and dynamite, and not his talk about the "green flag," which was immaterial. No request for his dismissal was made, or thought of being made; only that another constable might be substituted at the Exhibition. The ignorance which could swallow the story that a General Officer could mix himself up in a civic matter, is simply pitiable. As regards Mr. Crofton, that gentleman can scarcely even be troubled by the scurrility with which he has been assailed; but there is this to be said in the matter, and we think it a plain duty to say it, that liberty for Ireland does not mean the prohibition of free expression of opinion by any other class of British subjects. We desire equal freedom before the law for all, irrespective of religion or nationality, and Nova Scotia is not the country in which freemen are to be intimidated by bombast and scurrility.

The *London Times* has a summary of Her Majesty's reign, which is a masterpiece of condensation. The weighty sentences in which it sets forth and sums up the real position of evolution, may tend to reassure those who feel an uncalled for timidity with regard to that doctrine. In the domain of biology the theory of evolution, first placed upon a scientific basis by the genius of Darwin, is a product of the same great movement of philosophic thought which brought forth the molecular theory of matter, and the doctrine of the conservation of energy. The idea of evolution itself was not new, but what was new was the proof that in the vast geological changes established by the labors of Lyell and other workers in the same field, in the visible tendency to variation in existing plants and animals, and in the evidence collected by Darwin's industry and observation of the power of the struggle for existence to exercise, in given conditions, a selective and protecting influence upon occasional variations, we have all the data required for the construction of a coherent theory. Evolution has now definitely taken its place as a working scientific hypothesis; not, indeed, capable of explaining all the facts of biology, but consistent with these facts, and furnishing—the most that a scientific hypothesis can ever do—the means of systematizing our knowledge in preparation for a further advance. (Italics ours) The study of embryology is already profoundly modifying the interpretation put upon the evolutionary theory, and is probably paving the way for some new generalization. Mr. Herbert Spencer's application of the theory of evolution to the facts of social order is the expression, in the sphere of human thought and action, of the intellectual movement of which Darwin made himself the exponent in the field of biology."

## THE EXODUS.

"G. S." of the Fall River (Mass.) *Herald*, having visited us and being treated—says one of our contemporaries—as a gentleman, repays Halifax by a copious abuse of everything, couched in sarcasm which the writer evidently thinks to be cleverer than it is. There lies among the chaff some truth, the details of which do not matter here, but which has this bearing: