

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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Mr. Mayall, the eminent photographer of Bond street, at an advanced age, looks forward with great pleasure to the development of processes by which photography in colors will become as common as those at present in vogue. "Magnificent specimens of the new departure" have been inspected.

The principle of combination, beneficial as it is in its many forms of legitimate application, threatens to become the most grinding tyranny the world has seen. A boycott proclaimed against a carpet factory in New York, is aimed, not at the owner, but at his workmen, who refuse to strike on behalf of coal-heavers and long-shoremen. The *New York Times* most justly remarks on the case, apropos of Mr. Powderly:—"A man who undertakes to ruin an employer, in order to injure men in his employ for exercising their rights and minding their own business, ought to be in jail as soon as he can be put there." The time seems to have come, both in England and America, for stern legislation against this growing tyranny.

There are some railway engine drivers who seem to think it fun to turn on a diabolical screech and phizz of steam when they see a vehicle at some portion of the high-road close to the rail. Like the boys and the frogs, it may be fun (though one would think very poor fun) to them, but it might be death to the passers-by on the road. Levity and recklessness of this practical joke nature may amount to downright wickedness, and there is a special spice of combined cowardice and blackguardism in it when perpetrated on women who may happen to be driving alone. The malicious intent is sometimes perfectly obvious, and might quite probably occur under circumstances so capable of proof as, in case of accident, to lay their company open to serious damages.

"The true Irish policy," says the *Philadelphia American*, "is to make the Irish delegation such a nuisance in London that everybody will agree to the restoration of the Irish Parliament in Dublin. But if the support of a minority of English politicians is to tie their hands, they would have been better without it. If Mr Gladstone had a reasonable prospect of getting a working majority at an early date, there would be good sense in keeping Home Rule action within the bounds he might suggest. But is there such a prospect? Has not the last election thrown the Irish back upon the policy of unrelenting warfare, which first forced the British nation and its representatives to give heed to their demands? And is there anything to be gained by waging war on Quaker principles?"

There is, it appears, to be a jubilee issue of a double-florin piece in England. The utility of such a coin seems very questionable. The original florin value two shillings sterling—was issued with some vague idea that it was an initiatory movement in the direction of a decimal coinage, on what basis it is difficult to imagine. In view of the onus of changing the enormous British currency, the advocates of decimal coinage have apparently of late years relinquished the idea. If it were to be done at all, it has always appeared to us that the first step would be to accept the current half-penny as a cent, call in shillings and sixpences, issue paper whilst they were being received, and then medel the new silver coins on the Canadian plan. But the conservative Briton is wedded to his zodiacal dozen, and must probably be left to his own devices.

We seem to be fairly in for a surfeit of Jubilees. The fiftieth year of the ordination of His Holiness the Pope is not entered upon till 31st October, but the Catholic world is already alive, and pouring into the Vatican substantial tokens of congratulation. Nor are the tributes of respect by any means confined to the adherents of the ancient church. The Sultan contributes a magnificent diamond hoop, and the far-off Empress of China, the protestant German Emperor, and the protestant English Queen, unite in testifying respect for a Pontiff who has perhaps done more to deserve it than most of his predecessors. Even the savage tribes of Patagonia are brought under contribution. There is much significance in the present of the German Catholics, who unite to send all the scientific and literary publications of their language since the commencement of Pope Leo's pontificate so as to place before him the intellectual evidence of the period. The regret of ardent Catholics at the circumscription of the temporal power crops up here and there in the discussion of these matters, but, in our opinion, the Catholic Church has been a marked gainer in spiritual influence by the deprivation. The King of Italy is petitioned by several nations for free customs entry of the enormous amount of presents, a concession which can scarcely be refused. Possibly, a *modus vivendi* between the Quirinal and the Vatican may spring out of it.

## THE FISHERIES.

The Fisheries Question, the Retaliation and the Irish Questions, are, no doubt, godsend of the most satisfactory description to the Demagogues of the East, as the period of Mr. Cleveland's Presidency draws slowly onward, and Mr. Blaine, Mr. Fry and others, revel in their opportunities after the fashion of politicians of their stripe. But there are not wanting numerous indications in the press of other parts of the United States that these

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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 *Toronto Mail* gratifies (we suppose) some of its readers by a weekly column or so of "Gaelic Notes," printed in that venacular. No doubt they are very interesting to those they may concern, but their appearance is, to say the least, formidable to the average vulgarian.

The inhabitants of North Queensland are bent on erecting it into a separate colony, complaining of centralization of Government in Brisbane, the capital, which is in the extreme south of the present colony. As the population of Queensland is increasing very rapidly, it is probable that the object desired will be, sooner or later, carried out.

The attitude of France on the Egyptian question has from the first been discreditable. She refused to co-operate with England in 1882, and has ever since steadily pursued a course of mean obstructiveness quite unworthy a great nation. The recent agreement made by England with Turkey was framed to conciliate both France and Russia, but both refuse to assent to its ratification, by the Porte. Any objection made by Russia cannot be matter of much surprise, but conciliation is apparently entirely wasted on France.

To the present generation, the great Corsican soldier, the conqueror of Europe, and the lonely prisoner at St. Helena, figures as an historical character, having about it nothing of the terror and alarm which the bare mention of the name of Napoleon once created. Saving the 740 French veterans now living who served under the great Bonaparte, there are few indeed whose memories carry them back to the events of 72 years ago, and to the great battle of Waterloo, the anniversary of which we commemorate to-morrow.

We note with pleasure the encouraging aspect of the Loan Exhibition in aid of the School of Art and Design. The exhibition opens to-day, in the Provincial Building, and is to continue till to-morrow (Saturday) week. The Lt.-Governor delivers the opening address, and the Naval and Military Commanders-in-Chief will be present. A conversazione is to be held on Thursday evening, the 23rd. Thanks are largely due, and will, no doubt, be adequately expressed, to Miss Alice Jones and the committee of ladies, for the efficient preparation of the rooms which they undertook with so much spirit and energy. The advantage of this exhibit in stimulating and gratifying cultured and artistic taste can scarcely be over-estimated. The collection which has been got together demonstrates how much of these attributes already exists in the Province, and particularly in Halifax.