

# THE CRITIC:

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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 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.

**A TRUE ECONOMY.**—The economy of planting good seeds is not always grasped by our farmers, many of whom labor under the delusion that the seed of fine fruit or vegetables will of necessity reproduce its own kind and quality. It is far better for the farmer to buy his seed from reputable dealers, unless he is absolutely sure of the quality of the seed he is to plant. Seed-bearing plants that are grown near closely related plants of the same variety do not produce profitable seed. The old-time custom of buying large melons, etc., and saving the seed for next year's planting, is out of date. The farmer must have a guarantee that the seed has not been contaminated, else his melons, etc., may prove utterly disappointing in their results. The best seed will give a good hundred-fold profit that the farmer cannot well afford to lose.

**CUBA VERSUS SPAIN.**—There is once more trouble in the West Indies, as Cuba is in open revolt against the arbitrary exactions of Spain. The trouble has been hastened by the unpopularity of the present Governor-General, who is the supreme ruler of the island in all matters, civil, military or ecclesiastical. His advisers are Spanish grandees, who disdain alike the native Creoles and the free Blacks. In the face of a parliament which is held each year, the islanders are allowed the scantiest representation, and heavy taxes are levied on the island in spite of all remonstrances. In her present trouble, Cuba would be willing to accept almost any terms of annexation, if she could but secure the support either of Great Britain or of the United States, but it is not probable that Spain will allow this most valuable of her foreign possessions to slip from her grasp.

**WHERE ARE THE STARS AND STRIPES.**—Affairs at Honolulu are not properly adjusted—the war-dogs of the United States are indeed silent, and Queen Liliuokalani is not rousing the Pacific with protestations, but the end is not yet. Many of the American residents have withdrawn to the Continent, where they bewail the failure of their little annexation plot. Business matters are unsettled, and an utter lack of confidence prevails in financial circles. The Provisional Government is discouraged and patiently awaits coming events. It is a notable fact that the first documentary evidence which has been given the public of the position of Great Britain during the late unpleasantness, has been an autograph letter to the dusky sovereign from Queen Victoria, in which the royal sympathy and recognition of Liliuokalani's sufferings are unmistakably evident. The mere fact that the letter is inscribed to Liliuokalani, Queen of the Hawaiian Islands, is a sufficient indication of the attitude of Great Britain towards the Island Kingdom.

**SOMETHING TO THINK OVER.**—Padorowski, the famous pianist, is posing in a new light, as a humorist, and we cannot think as an unconscious one. The World's Fair Commissioners, after having abused themselves at his feet in order to induce him to sign a contract by which he should agree to give his services gratuitously for a concert at the Fair, turned about and informed him with a high degree of bumpousness that he would not be allowed to play on his own piano, but on an instrument which had been placed on exhibition. Padorowski, who has an almost passionate attachment for his piano, made a gentlemanly remonstrance in which he asks— "If Sarasate, the famous violinist, were to play at the Chicago Fair, do you suppose that the directors would require him to leave his Stradovarius in the lobby and use an instrument made by some of the exhibitors at the Fair?" One of the chief commissioners seems to have taken the question literally, as he avowed that "no fiddler was going to run this fair;" but it is more than possible that in time he will realize that his answer was not exactly to the point.

**HARD ON TRADE UNIONS.**—The general feeling in the law courts of both the United States and Great Britain seems to be against the recognition of trade and labor unions. The decision in the case of the strike of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Drivers was a serious blow to the interested parties, and the case will be tried before a higher court. In a recent decision, Lord Justice Lopes, of London, awards damages to a builder whose contract was unfiled by reason of the simultaneous strikes of three labor unions. The builder, who was therefore compelled to break his contract, sought redress from the courts, and as the decision has been in his favor, he will now endeavor to collect the damages which have been awarded him. Outside of the legal world both decisions have been considered unfair. While it is an accepted fact that contractors, companies, directorates, etc., should be protected, yet the rights of the working man should be sedulously guarded, and in both of the recent decisions there is more than a doubt as to whether the judgment has not been a biased one.

**HE WAS PUT UP TO IT.**—The inner workings of the *coup d'etat* by which young Alexander of Servia so suddenly rose to power, are being made known. King Milan of Servia, the father of the present ruler, abdicated his throne in 1889, after a vigorous quarrel with his wife, the Russian Princess Natalie. A divorce was obtained and the royal couple separated, leaving the kingdom in the hands of a Regency until the heir should attain his eighteenth birthday. Since then King Milan has been living at the Austrian Court in his usual irresponsible fashion. Having at last come to the end of the million dollars wherewith the State endowed him on his abdication, he has thought best to be reconciled to his former wife, and their re-marriage was recently celebrated with great pomp. In plain language the ex-king has been bought over by Russian money and influence, and the action of the present sovereign is the result of the dictation of his mother, who is anxious that the little kingdom should be under Russian domination. The young Prince has been a willing tool, and the reconciled pair are rejoicing that the regents who were most strongly opposed to the extension of Russian power are safely imprisoned. Bulgaria is now the sole Danubian State which is not practically under Russian rule.

**A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.**—President Cleveland, if he wishes to consult the best interests of his people, should have the Geary Act revised until it will exclude the members of the titled aristocracy of Europe from the domains of the Republic. His people cannot keep calm and cool before a veritable Duke and Duchess. A young Lord or a paltry Viscount, or even a simple Sir, is enough to demoralize them, and they have already been severely tried by the notable personages, notable at least in the United States, who have crossed the water to attend the World's Fair. It is quite possible that the excitement over the titled guests may induce a nervous susceptibility to the cholera, for with real live lords and ladies floating around, it will be impossible to preserve the care-free state of mind and body which physicians enjoin. The social world of New York was shaken to its foundations by the Earl of Craven. The lady managers at Chicago have waged a deadly battle over the precedence accorded to certain ladies at the reception held in honor of the Duchess of Veragua, and it is not probable that the breaches caused by the Spanish lady's arrival will ever be healed. The Mayor of Chicago has got in trouble by being obliged to make an address in French with English interpolations for his own benefit, and a few Spanish touches out of compliment to Columbus. It may be remembered that not a year ago a lesser honor crazed the poet laureate, William Watson. By far the simplest remedy for the trouble would be the substitution of the phrase, "the aristocracy must stay away," for the time-honored and general doctrine of "the Chinese must go."