

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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.

Jacke is the biggest ape in America, and is now attracting Boston sight-seers. His strength is prodigious, and it was with the greatest difficulty that his captors succeeded in shipping him from the west coast of Africa. By-the-way, the weakness of human beings as compared with the strength of their apish progenitors, is evolutioned backwards, but perhaps the disciples of Darwin will undertake to prove that this is progress.

Mesmerism, as it is affirmed by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, has been made practical use of in the town of Toissons. A young man who was mesmerized and forbidden to drink wine for the ensuing fortnight, found, on waking to consciousness, that he was unable to disregard the order. It was a few good mesmerists in Nova Scotia, they might employ their time usefully in preventing the chronic crooking of the elbow, which is known to be going on in Scott Act as well as non-Scott Act counties.

Ceylon appears to have been fortunate in having a Governor possessed of sufficient backbone to avert a serious crisis. Owing to an unfounded rumor of its probable failure, the creditors of the Oriental Bank made a run upon it, and the Governor, Sir Arthur Gordon, being aware of the circumstances, and taking in the gravity of the situation, quietly stepped to the front and guaranteed the notes issued by the Bank. This prompt action has saved from ruin the coffee and tea planters who transacted their business through the Bank, and now that the crop promise is greater than ever before, the planters are hopeful that Ceylon is once more to enjoy its long lost prosperity.

We confess a feeling of admiration for boys who have enough fun and mischief in their constitution to pluckily carry out a good joke. The other day two boys in Souris, P. E. I., sold the officials badly. They first, in the dead of the night, and with feigned secrecy, carried to the shore a number of barrels, which were supposed to contain pork, biscuit, etc., but which were really filled with sawdust. The suspicious officers, ever on the alert, followed the boys to the shore, and kept a sharp lookout for the boat of the American fisherman, which they felt certain would soon put in an appearance. Meantime the boys went away, dressed themselves as American sailors, and brought their boat round to the spot where they had left the supposed provisions. When they attempted to carry the latter on board, these were forfeited, and the boys, keeping at a respectful distance, stood near enough to see the chagrin of the officials on discovering the sawdust hoax.

The die from which was being struck the £5 Jubilee gold pieces has been broken, and the coins, of which but 3000 were issued, are now selling at a handsome premium. Speaking of the Jubilee coinage, we note that public opinion not only condemns the designs, but criticises the workmanship as being discreditable, even to a mediæval age. With art and artistic taste developed as it now is, we might have naturally concluded that the Jubilee coins would be in design and in mechanical finish more elegant, more perfect, and more artistic than any hitherto produced.

The sixty millions of Russian peasants are inspired by but two great ideas, love of country and love of the Orthodox Church, and as upon their hearty co-operation must depend the success of the Russian armies, it follows that unless the country is invaded or the church attacked, the great bulk of the people care little for what is going on elsewhere, hence a Russian invasion of India is but a gaseous bubble, and since, if attempted, the Russian peasantry would have to be heavily and directly taxed, while the Russian ports were blockaded by the British fleet, the attack would not be sustained for more than a few weeks, and must collapse for the want of a general Russian sentiment in favor of such a movement.

To cross the Atlantic in less than three days is the expectancy of Captain Jovis, the famous aeronaut. For the past three years the oceanic balloon has been under construction, and the captain anticipates making a start about October 10th. The steering gear of this balloon, it is said, is far superior to anything hitherto tried, and Capt. Jovis is strongly impressed with the belief that, by its use, balloon travelling will become the most popular and safe way for moving from one place to another. Since the advent of train-wreckers and dynamite fiends, travelling by land or water has become more perilous than of yore, and so far as these gentry are concerned, the balloon passengers would have a decided advantage.

The make-up of the new ministry in the Sandwich Islands is decidedly cosmopolitan, with Green, an Englishman, as Premier and Minister of Finance; Brown, an American, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ashford, a Canadian, as Attorney General, and Thurston, a Sandwich Islander by birth, as Minister of the Interior. The government hopes to conduct its affairs so as to retain the confidence of the people, and win the good-will of the great Anglo-Saxon communities in the old and new world. It is whispered, that the removal of Mr. Gibson from the position of Premier, which he has held for the past six years, and his subsequent flight to the United States, was the outcome of a decision upon the part of that gentleman to annex the Islands to the great American Republic.

English capitalists and manufacturers who are seeking new fields for enterprise should look to the colonies before establishing themselves in foreign countries. The Germans are now learning a bitter lesson from their experiences in Russia. When the latter country raised her tariff wall, German capital and skilled German mechanics crossed the boundary line and settled on the Vistula in order to retain the lucrative Russian trade, but now they are told that unless they swear allegiance to the Czar, they must recross into Germany and leave to Russians the control of the factories and mills which have been erected. Denationalization is as repugnant to a Britisher as it is to a full blooded German, and he should therefore note these facts, shun foreign countries, and establish himself in the Britains beyond the sea.

According to the *Indian Review*, *Serice Gazette*, there has been much excitement in Agra over the poisoning of seventy men in the Manchester Regiment. On investigation, it was found that arsenic had been put in the beer on tap, and further examination disclosed the fact that several hogs-heads of beer in store contained a large quantity of the same deadly poison. No explanation of this foul attempt to destroy human life can be offered since, had it been from political motives, the entire garrison would have been subjected to the same risk, but it is a puzzle to many what could have provoked this dastardly attempt on the Manchester Regiment in particular. The world, or a portion of its people, appears to be running riot and human life to be held as valueless as that of the insect creation. Some of these fine days we will have to call a halt, and ask ourselves whether hanging is not too humane a punishment for the inhuman brutes who are now preying upon society.

WESTERN NOVA SCOTIA.

The counties west and south-west of Halifax, including Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, Digby and Yarmouth, are all noted for their agricultural products, the Annapolis Valley being celebrated for its large crops of apples, cherries, and small fruits, Digby for its cherries, and Hants for its apples, while hay and root crops, that are not excelled in quantity and quality, everywhere reward the husbandman for his toil. The cereals flourish, portions of all the counties named being traversed by belts of fertile soil capable of producing wheat, oats, rye and barley. Large forests still furnish the lumbermen with profitable occupation in many sections, but ship building, at one time the most flourishing