

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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Colonel Stanley discovered in the heart of the "black continent" a large tribe of white Africans. He doubts the correctness of the theory that these timid people, who crouch in their mountain caverns with fear and dread of the savage Ethiopian tribes, by whom they are surrounded, are descendants of the followers of the Brave Vasco di Gama. The discovery of this white race will furnish scientists with an ethnological nut which will be difficult to crack.

Poor Burmah! Its luck has gone: its white elephant is dead. The noble and patriotic beast preferred death to captivity, firmly refusing to submit to British domination. For sanitary reasons, the sacrilegious English barbarians refused to allow the sacred corpse to lie in state for the customary three days. As a matter of fact, the elephant was not white, but the priests had announced that he was of that color, and the Burmans would rather believe themselves color-blind than disbelieve their priests.

General Booth, the Salvation Army autocrat, wants \$150,000 to carry on the war during the year 1886, but refuses to give any account of moneys previously expended. This is the most objectionable feature in this new organization, and if not soon changed, will certainly have the effect of deterring the well-disposed from giving further aid to the movement. General Booth must submit his budget to the Parliament of the people, otherwise they may refuse to vote him needed supplies.

The Cherokee Indians, who have resided since 1846 in the Indian Territory, U. S., are living witnesses to the aptitude of the red man, in adopting the customs of civilized life. Cherokee professors lecture in Cherokee colleges, and Cherokee clergymen minister to the spiritual wants of their Cherokee brethren. The experiment in the Indian Territory owes its success to the abolition of the tribal system, and to the allotment of land to individuals.

The Australian frozen meat trade has proved a failure, but American shippers of beef and mutton have every confidence in their ability to supply the demands of the trade, which has of recent years grown to enormous proportions in Britain. Here is a field for Canadian enterprise, which Nova Scotians should not be slow in taking advantage of. Our beef and mutton are of the best and, with the saving in distance, as compared with Ontario in the West, we should certainly be able to more than hold our own.

P. T. Barnum, who is always prepared to beat his record, has, since the death of Jumbo, been on the lookout for new and startling attractions for his museum. He lately made the proposal to the Italian Government to complete the excavations at Pompeii within two years, at his own expense, provided he be allowed the exclusive privilege, during the ensuing five years, of exhibiting any of the curiosities that might be found in the ruins. The Italian Government has not seen its way clear to accept the big showman's extraordinary offer, and Barnum will have to seek elsewhere for the new and greatest wonder of the world.

We have advocated a more complete survey of routes, before the final selection be made for the Short Line Railway, which is to connect Montreal with a Canadian Atlantic sea-port. We have condemned the International route, on account of its sharp curves, high gradients, and general impracticability; we have pointed out that a favorable location could be secured, and have recommended our citizens to subscribe towards the complete survey of the same. Winter is now upon us, and when the question again comes before Parliament, we shall be unable to strengthen our case by the presentation of those facts with which the survey would have supplied us. When our people fully realize the mistake which has been made, their regrets will be in order.

While still published in Chicago, *Literary Life* has been forced to move its editorial offices to New York, the chief literary centre, where the editor will be better able to furnish, as he says, "a record of cotemporary history in literature obtained from best sources." The same magazine, in its January "Literary Gossip," notes that several living Canadian librarians are, to some extent, men of letters. These are William Houston, Librarian to the Toronto Legislature, formerly an editor of the *Globe*, and a contributor to the *Week*; P. LeMay, Legislative Librarian of Quebec, the well-known translator of "Evangeline"; Martin J. Griffin, Librarian of the Dominion Parliament, and late editor of the *Toronto Mail*, whom the editor styles "a forcible, if not over-scrupulous political writer"; and F. Blake Crofton, Legislative Librarian of Nova Scotia, who is described as a contributor to magazines, and author of *The Major's By-tail Stories*, a book which has taken exceptionally well with British critics. There are many, adds the editor, who regret that Mr. G. Mercer Adam, late editor of the *Canadian Monthly*, and an author, should have failed to secure the librarianship of the new Toronto Public Library. The late Aipheus Todd, the most eminent of Canadian librarians, was also one of the most distinguished of Canadian authors.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Cocaine, which, as an alleviator of pain, is recognized as one of the grandest discoveries of the age, is now found to be an antidote to sea-sickness. By taking one teaspoonful of this invaluable medicine, (cost 75 cts.), the ill-effects of nausea are removed, and the passenger can devote himself to his one dollar dinner without fear of the consequences.

The Board of Trade in Boston, and the Chamber of Commerce in Halifax, favor reciprocal trade relations between Canada and the United States. If these bodies could imbue the American Congress and the Parliament of Canada with the same common-sense view of the question as they themselves entertain, brother Jonathan might enjoy cheap potatoes and fish, and the Bluenoses, cheap bread.

The value of the Labrador fisheries, and, by inference, that of the other Canadian fisheries, may be judged by an offer which is said to have been recently made the Dominion Government. An American syndicate offers, in return for the exclusive right of fishing within a district of 500 miles in circumference, ten per cent on the profits. Some Canadian capitalists, less grasping, wish to form a company with a capital of about \$40,000, and desire the Government to give, not a monopoly, or direct aid, but a moral and material support to facilitate the forming of the company. Among the objects which this company have in view are these:—To assist the fishermen in acquiring seines, &c.; to aid, by means of steamers, the fishing schooners to clear the ice which often impedes them; and to manufacture cod-liver oil and fish guano. A number of such companies would find a wide field of operation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Every merchant, banker, and capitalist, should inspect the copper ore from the Coxheath mine, now being exhibited by Capt. Gragg, at the Halifax Hotel, as will be seen by our editorial in the mining department of *THE CRITIC*. Capt. Gragg wishes to raise \$500,000, for the purpose of erecting smelting works on Sydney Harbor. He asks our capitalists to subscribe one tenth of this amount, and is prepared, upon their so doing, to raise the balance of the money in Boston and New York. The enterprise is one that deserves the consideration of our leading business men, as its success would probably have the effect of inducing outside capitalists to make investments in some of the other promising mining fields in this Province. Capt. Gragg is entitled to a hearing, and we would recommend him, before leaving the city, to call a meeting of our prominent citizens, so as to bring this new enterprise directly to their notice.