

# 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 decrease of 6000 tons of tea in shipments by the Suez Canal is due to the quantity carried by the C. P. R. and their steamers.

The Sinclair Flats Canal appears, by the reports of American surveyors themselves, and by the remission of duties granted to the contractor, to be built partly on Canadian territory. What could any government have been dreaming about to have been blind to the certain ultimate importance of the incident at the time?

Nothing could be meaner than the continued attempts of the Gladstonian press to bespatter Mr. Chamberlain with mud. History will ascribe to Mr. Chamberlain tact, ability, and moderation, in the conduct of the negotiations with which he was charged, and no political partizan slander will have power to deprive him of the credit which is justly his due. Had it not been for the imminence of the Presidential campaign, it is more than probable the treaty would have been a success.

General Harrison's letter of acceptance is not, we venture to think, a document calculated to strengthen the Republican cause. It mildly hints at the free whisky platform as a mistake of the Chicago Convention, endeavors to counteract the mischief of Mr. Blaine's patronage of Trusts, and, to the Republican candidate's credit, takes a tone of moderation on the Fisheries and Retaliation questions. This last, though honorable and statesmanlike, will scarcely be popular in the States just now.

It seems almost incredible that the noble offer of the Nizam in behalf of the general defence of India should still be the subject of government higgling. "If the baleful skill of statesmen will only permit it," says the *Deccan Times*, "the march of events seems to point to the time when a completely equipped and handy army corps of the Nizam's will form an integral portion of the Imperial Forces of India on much the same footing as those of the Kings of Saxony and Bavaria" in those of Germany. But why the extraordinary and imbecile delay in settling so desirable an arrangement?

It appears that the Maine election the other day was signalized by considerable drunkenness. Maine is continually on the lips of the Prohibitionists as the state *par excellence* in which grand results have been achieved by Prohibitory laws. "It is," the *Chronicle* observes, "perhaps no argument against a law that it is sometimes violated," but most reports agree that the infraction of the liquor laws in Maine has been persistent, and infraction will ever be persistent of laws which conflict with nature and reason.

Mr. Michael Davitt is a person whose veracity we are not aware there is any reason to doubt. If the abstract he is said to have prepared for the Press is correctly quoted, his testimony will go far to relieve Mr. Parnell or odious suspicions. Mr. Davitt asserts that he was expelled from the Irish Republican Brotherhood in America for his advocacy of constitutional agitation. This is to Mr. Davitt's honor. Other serious threats seem to have hung over him.

Mr. Henry George's testimony tends in the same direction. He states, it is reported, that he was the first to inform Mr. Parnell and Mr. Davitt of the Phoenix Park assassinations; that "Mr. Parnell was horrified and deeply moved when he heard the news." That he wanted to resign his seat in Parliament at once, and was only dissuaded by Mr. Davitt's strenuous exertions. "There is not the slightest doubt," Mr. George continues, "about Mr. Parnell's utter horror of the deed. The news came to him like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky."

General Lord Wolseley has been a successful man in such fields as circumstances have granted him, but he does not strike us as being so distinguished a success when he takes to dealing with abstract questions with the pen. Lord Wolseley is no doubt right when he ascribes the rescue of liberty from great aggressors to great soldiers. The work could not be done without soldiery, but when he speaks of "a torrent of anarchical democracy lately let loose upon England," his Lordship gets slightly out of his depth. When the old Duke retires, Lord Wolseley can set to work and abolish pipe clay, and that is the sort of work he had better stick to.

The death of Prof. R. A. Proctor, in New York, at the age of 52 only, will have been received with regret by thousands to whom his charming astronomical works are familiar. No astronomer has ever made his science so popular. It is to be hoped that his works will now be published in a collected form, in which they would make a complete manual of the most attractive character. It is stated that the late Professor died of yellow fever, and that his decease was preceded by the black vomit. It is also said that he had renounced his connection with the Roman Catholic Church, his tenure of certain scientific views being held to be incompatible with the faith.

The enterprising, but we should say, not over wise, Captain Andrews, seems to have been glad at last to be picked up by a Norwegian vessel about mid ocean, in a very delapidated condition. A seaman of the ship relates a conversation with Captain Andrews, in which, as he says, he learned that the cheap adventurer of the "Dark Secret" would have continued his voyage but for a Sea Serpent which unpleasantly persisted in interviewing him. This yarn is probably apocryphal, and due to the sailor's invention, but if true, does not strike one as evidence in favor of the clearness of the gallant captain's perceptions, although he is credited with affirming that he does not drink!

A curious and well-written book has recently been produced by a gentleman of Montreal, entitled "*The Young Seigneur, or Nation-Making*," under the *nom de plume* of Wilfred Chateaufclair. The drift is the overshadowing of Canada by means of the fecundity of the French Canadian race. The fictitious aims are not without nobility of sentiment, but in contemplating such a possibility, we cannot escape the remembrance that French Canadians are unprogressive. We recall the utter extinction of the Goths, and the absorption of the Franks, two of the noblest tribes of antiquity, and wonder if it be possible that it is decreed that all the higher races to whom the world owes its civilization, are to die out before the lower and more impulsive ones to whom the world owes but little.

## DISAFFECTION.

The Emperor William is stated to have recently said—"I only recognize as friends those friendly to the fatherland. \* \* \* \* \* Whoever refuses to recognize this, and stirs up strife in men's minds, no matter what his leanings may be, must not expect approval from me." This is the spirit that animates almost every country under the sun. In the United States, in