

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.

An Indiana paper mourns because a jury proved unable to "separate crime from politics." That is a hard thing to do in Indiana.

A Brooklyn church has a lady doctor amongst its members, and the pastor is on trial for putting an arm around her waist. He should affirm his right to support a pillar of his church.

Americans are, as a rule, pretty close reasoners, but it will be beyond the power of their most astute diplomatists to prove to the ordinary Canadian mind that the recent seizures of Dominion fishermen in Alaska waters are legal.

The Women's Jubilee Offering to Queen Victoria amounts to a far larger sum than is required for the contemplated object, an equestrian statue of the Prince Consort, to be erected in Hyde Park, but it is said that she intends to give the balance over (about \$250,000) to charities.

It is well that the fisheries matter is at length to be submitted to arbitration; but it is a puzzle why this was not done twelve months ago. With Mr. Joseph Chamberlain as a president of the board, and with a wide-awake Englishman, a keen Canadian, and three live Americans, to examine into the pros and cons of this fishery trouble, we may fairly hope that a definite, satisfactory agreement will result, so that New Scotland may not be further outraged.

The Halifax Gas Company has evidently got a white elephant upon its hands, in the plant of the old Electric Light Company, for which it paid ninety thousand dollars, only to find that the contract for lighting the city by electricity had been awarded to outside parties. No citizen should desire to see his fellow-citizens lose money, and we therefore hope that Mr. Chandler and his associates will see their way clear to purchase the electric plant of the Gas Company.

Householders in Halifax have been greatly troubled during the present summer with the cracking of the plaster on the walls, and the dislodgment of portions of the ceilings. Not long since the wife of one of our most prominent clergymen left the parlor in which she had been sitting, and returning a few minutes later found that a large section of the ceiling above the place where she had been seated had fallen to the floor. Some persons attribute the householders' difficulties to the unusually dry season, but it is probable that the heavy Artillery firing, which has been going on of late, is the real cause.

The Canadian Fish Oil and Guano Company, with a capital of \$200,000, is about starting business at Montmagny, Quebec. The principal shareholders are American capitalists.

Frank D. Sherman has a poem on "August" in St. Nicholas, in which appears the lines:—

August, month when sleepy cows
Seek the shade of spreading boughs,
Where the robin quirks his head,
Contemplating cherries red.

An August cherry must be a canned cherry, or the robin must be fooling Mr. Sherman.

Dutchmen have long appreciated the advantages which follow from the planting of the sunflower in low and swampy lands. And now the Cubans have discovered that its cultivation in malaria stricken districts has a most healthful effect, utterly destroying the miasmatic germs. As previously mentioned by us, sunflower seeds make excellent hen food, while their stocks, if dried, make as bright and pleasant a fire as one could wish to see. Oscar Wilde's æsthetic craze has popularized the sunflower, but its popularity will be far more general when people understand that the plant may be classed in the utilitarian kingdom.

The committee at Genua, Italy, selected to manage the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of Columbus, will invite all the States of America to send representatives." We cull this item from an American exchange, and may remark that it is now going the rounds of the press in the United States. We are aware that the actual date of the birth of Columbus is somewhat uncertain; but it is news to us that the four hundredth anniversary of that event is yet to take place. If it were true, Columbus must have been a precocious youngster to have discovered America when he was but five years of age. As a matter of fact the Genoese navigator was born about 1430, and was about sixty-two years of age when he first crossed the Atlantic.

We have been shown a boat, constructed and patented by Mr. Mosher, of Bedford Mills, which is a model of lightness, compactness, and ingenuity. Its dimensions are—length 12 feet, beam 3 feet 6 in., depth amidships 12 in. The peculiarity is, that the frame is so constructed as to fold together, so that the whole boat can be packed in a case 5 feet by 16 in. by 12 in., from which the boat may be taken and set up ready for the water in five minutes. Weight 60 lbs. The contrivances for doubling up the frame work are of such a nature as to strengthen it. The outer skin is of water-proof canvas, and the whole can be conveyed in a light open-backed wagon. The boat will hold two or three persons, and is admirably adapted to the purposes of sportsmen, to whom we recommend an inspection.

We are, most of us, familiar with the story of the good-natured old man who endeavored to follow the advice of every one he met, as to the load his donkey should carry, which ended in the loss of his faithful animal. If editors were equally good-natured and green, they would soon be without journals to edit. The tastes of a reading constituency are widely varied. Some look to the literary tone of a newspaper for their enjoyment, others revel in the news, or find pleasure in the commercial, mining, or agricultural departments. Still others read the story and fancy that by so doing they have read the paper. The truth is, there must always be some things published in a paper in which some of the subscribers take no interest, while they find great pleasure in reading the remainder of the journal, while the part that they deem unimportant is regarded by others as the only portion of the paper worthy of perusal. An editor who would cater to the public needs to be a good provider and a skilled cook, otherwise his patrons will tire of potatoes and fish, varied by fish and potatoes.

One of the most singular incidents connected with the burning of the Opera Comique, says a Paris letter, was the wonderful escape from death of one of the chorus-singers. On the first alarm he rushed up-stairs to his dressing room on the fourth floor to save his small possessions, and on arriving there, overcome with heat and smoke, he had fallen on the floor in a swoon. There he lay in a state of utter insensibility for over two hours. His dressing room was fortunately situated in an angle of the building which flames did not reach, the state of syncope in which he was had suspended respiration, and so, unharmed by the fire or by the poisonous smoke and gasses evolved from the burning scenery, he remained there in safety while death and destruction were rioting around him. It was long past 11 o'clock when he came to his senses and realized his horror and danger of his position. He made his escape by a staircase leading to the Rue de Marivaux, and on finding himself in safety he once more became unconscious and was taken to a pharmacy, from whence he was transferred to a hospital. A few days ago he was discharged, cured, after suffering severely from his long sojourn in the pestiferous atmosphere of the burning building. He can now boast of being the only person who remained for two hours in the Opera Comique after the fire broke out, and who then escaped not only alive, but comparatively unhurt.