

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

<b>EDITORIAL.</b>	
Irish Grievances of To day.....	2
Summer Carnival.....	2
An Expatriation Syndicate.....	2
Insurance.....	2
Notes.....	1
<b>CONTRIBUTED.</b>	
Early American Civilization.....	" Sartor Resartus, Jr." 6
Charles I.....	" Parish Priest." 6
The Canadian Millia.....	" Franc-Tireur." 7, 8
Frederickton, N. B. Seasonal Notes.....	" M. H. C." 7, 8
Events and Comments.....	" Veteran." 8
Authority.....	" Franc-Tireur." 9
Cross-word Enigma.....	" Mac." 3
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
Tit-Bits.....	3
News of the Week.....	4
Religious.....	5
Market Quotations.....	5
To Wheat Growers.....	6, 7
Political Review of the Past Week.....	8, 9
Serial.....	10, 11
The Maritime Patron.....	12
Mising.....	13, 14

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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.

It is said, and with some show of probability, that there is more tea used in Nova Scotia than in France. It is a peculiar fact that there is scarcely one pound of black tea used in the United States of America to every one hundred of oolong and green, while in Nova Scotia scarcely one pound of green is used to every one hundred of black.

A few years since, the cremation of the dead was regarded as a barbaric practice which modern civilized society opposed upon the ground of its being unnatural and inhuman. To-day we read of crematories being erected in all the principal cities of the United States, at a cost varying from \$40,000 to \$100,000. Society evidently now realizes that the burial of the dead under six feet of mother earth is much more inhuman and quite as barbaric as cremation.

The American Congress are now considering a proposal to increase the pensions of the widows of the soldiers serving in the late war. The number of these widows proves that the Blue as well as the Red-coat has its attractions for the fair sex. The item of increase, though apparently small, as respects the individual, will, it is said, aggregate \$14,000,000. Uncle Sam's coffers are full, and he evidently feels inclined to place a portion of his surplus in the hands of those who know best how to spend it.

The representatives of the Boston Chamber of Commerce have shown Congress that on the Fishery Question something may be said on both sides, and it is probable that their representations will have quite as much weight as those of the misguided New England fishermen. These latter claim that the Canadian fisheries are worthless, and the Boston delegates reply that, if so, Yankee fishermen are wanting in shrewdness, otherwise they would not use Canadian fishing grounds to the extent that they now do.

Sir John A. MacDonald says he believes in young men and favors their entering public life. Sir John is right; young men will never become wise-acs until they are in the position to apply the gauge of experience to political questions; but until they have obtained it the country must look to the older and more thoughtful heads for the solution of the problems which are now engaging the public mind. Haligonians should take a leaf from Sir John's book and allow their young men places upon the Bank and Insurance directorates,

Within sixty days of the time when M. DeLesseps and the fifteen French, German, English, and American engineers who accompanied him left Southampton, the veteran engineer expects to cross the ocean, visit Panama, demonstrate to his companions the feasibility of the great work in which he is engaged, recross the ocean and be in Paris ready to convince capitalists that there is money in the enterprise. Such an undertaking in an octogenarian throws in the shade the exploits of some of the eastern patriarchs who were wont to display the full vigor of manhood long after they had reached the allotted age of human beings.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* contains an article upon P. E. Island, to which a contemporary in Charlottetown takes exception. The article in question was written by Mr. George Stewart, well-known in Canadian literary circles, but it is quite evident from the errors in which the article abounds that Mr. Stewart's sources of information were both antiquated and incorrect. Prince Edward Island has many scholars among her professional men, any one of whom could have written an article upon the garden of the St. Lawrence quite as readable and much more reliable than the one to which we refer.

"The Tongue Guard" is the name of a society in Connecticut, in which the members—young ladies—enter into an agreement to say nothing ill-natured of any person, male or female, old or young, rich or poor; and they further agree, should they in some unguarded moment violate their obligation, to pay a fine of five cents for each and every violation of the same. The poor of that Connecticut town are enjoying a winter of unprecedented abundance. The "Poor Association," and the "Church Aid Societies" have disbanded, as the funds of the new society are ample to meet all the wants of the poor in that locality. Halifax is to have a similar society next year.

At the close of the American Civil War the Southern Confederacy had at their disposal, ammunition, guns and military stores to the value of \$40,000,000. These had been purchased and paid for by the agents of the Confederate Government, but were left at various points in Europe until they could conveniently be shipped. Since the collapse of the Confederacy these stores have remained in the hands of the manufacturers, although paid for in hard cash. The holders of Confederate bonds are now making a united and determined effort to recover these stores, hoping to thus in part recoup the loss which they as bond holders have sustained. Confederate bonds are again marketable at 23 per cent. of their face value.

Those who remember the pleasure they experienced in listening to the great organ recitals, given by Professor A. Bird when in Halifax, will not be surprised to learn that this gentleman has just scored a musical triumph as a composer. On the Fourth of February, his grand concert—in which four of the seven numbers, were his own composition—was given before a large and critical audience in Berlin. His Symphony in A, which was rendered by the first orchestra in that city, fairly took the audience by storm; and the Berlin papers have gracefully acknowledged the young composer's success. Mr. Bird's friends in Halifax, will, we are sure, join with us in wishing that he may reach the goal of his ambition and reap the full reward of his arduous labors.

Utah is becoming too hot for the Mormons and even Salt Lake City is losing its charms for the many-wived disciples of Brigham Young. The truth is the American people have determined to wipe out this dark blot from their civilization, and the Federal Government is slowly but surely turning the law screws upon those who have hitherto been a law unto themselves. But Mormonism is not thus to be ruthlessly squeezed out of existence. President Diaz and the Mexican Government, anxious to colonize some of the districts in the northern part of Mexico, have encouraged the Mormons to come in and possess the land. The peculiar practices and doctrines of the Latter Day Saints, so out of place in the United States, will probably take deeper root and flourish more successfully in the lawless republic.

To our mind, the speech of Mr. MacCoy, M. P. P., at the opening of the Local House, did injustice to the Local Government. The latter is, we would fain believe, anxious to pass a measure of "justice to Cape Breton." Yet the impression on the mind of more than one man who listened to Mr. MacCoy at the opening of the Assembly, was, that it is intended merely to make convenient promises to Cape Breton, these to be afterwards conveniently forgotten as too many others have been. We do not understand how an intelligent member of the Nova Scotia Assembly should speak with levity and ridicule of the claims of Cape Breton to consideration. Seeing how much Cape Breton has contributed to the provincial coffers and how little has been done by the Province in return, we should suppose an honorable gentleman like Mr. MacCoy would not wilfully add insult to injury as he seemed to be attempting to do on the occasion referred to.