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The inventors of stories about interviews of which they evidently know nothing are at work about Mrs. Alice Shaw, the whistling lady, and the Prince of Wales. The story condemns itself by a number of vulgarities impossible to have occurred, among others that the Prince asked Mrs. Shaw to whistle a certain waltz "right here," between the courses at dinner. Besides the general outrageousness of the thing, it is almost safe to say that no English gentleman ever used that particular vulgarity.

The *Evening Gazette*, of St. John, in a severe article prompted by the insolence of Senator Loggals, and by the annexation proclivities of certain Canadian journals, advises the organization of Loyal Leagues whose business it shall be to watch suspicious characters Loyal Leagues, by all means, if they will do any good, but not for inquisitorial purposes, which we should object to unless under conditions of war or immediately impending war. A free and right feeling press is the best purifier of the atmosphere.

We are quite at a loss to understand what possible good the organs of either political party do to their respective beliefs by picking holes in the conduct of Cabinet Ministers, either Dominion or Provincial, for taking part in elections and advocating their respective principles before the electors. This course is practised in England as well as here; it is well recognized as a legitimate advocacy, and it seems not only a waste of time, but a provocation of unnecessary bitterness where there is already far too much, to find fault with it.

We hear varying accounts of the intentions of Hon. Edward Blake. It is much to be desired that he should re-enter public life. The Liberal party has suffered most, as we believe, from adherence to a narrow and anti-national policy; it has also suffered from a want of breadth and geniality in its leading men. They have been too austere, not to say sour, in disposition, and repulsive in manner. Mr. Blake does not escape this disadvantage, but he is a strong man, and what the country needs most just now is really strong men in the opposition.

Dakota, which is vaunted across the line as a Paradise for the emigrant, experienced a heavy frost in August which ruined a vast area of crops. The entire population of Ramsay County is high to starvation, and an appeal is made to St. Paul for help. The worst is that the distress is so great that it would financially ruin the State to alleviate it fully. Doubtless there are Canadians in Dakota who have sought to better themselves by resorting thither. Every year's record confirms the view that our own N. W. Territories enjoy better isothermal lines than those of the adjacent States of the Union, while Nova Scotia, which in many important points is superior to either, is believed by thousands to be an American Lapland.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, having taken it into his perverse head to meddle in Canadian politics, to the great detriment of the Dominion generally, is now joined by Mr. Froude, who considers it certain that "if England does not offer Canada Commercial Union, America will, and the Dominion will be practically lost." It is a very curious thing that the study of history should turn out cranks instead of healthy patriots. Mr. Froude's well and deservedly abused book on the West Indies, makes his opinion on practical politics of little consequence, and Dr. Goldwin Smith's love for his own vaticination leaves him of little more, and Canada will probably decline altogether the only nostrum which these purblind gentlemen are able to see, and, quite possibly, adopt a totally different one.

The promotion of Royal soldiers and sailors generally involves injustice to officers who have to work their way steadily from rank to rank. That of the Duke of Edinburgh is a glaring instance. This economic prince, whose chief inheritance of his father's virtues is evidently the gift of an admirable prudence, was first promoted to be a Captain from the rank of Lieutenant, (if we remember right) without serving the intermediate grade of Commander. He was then made a Rear Admiral (if we mistake not) over the heads of a number of Captains. A few Vice Admirals were then skipped gaily over, and H. R. II. now blooms nearly half way up the list of Admirals. Meantime, as a Vice Admiral, he was given the Mediterranean, an Admiral's command, with that rank locally till he got the flag at the main in due rotation. The rotation, however, is undue from any point of view. The Active List consists of 3 Admirals of the Fleet, 10 Admirals, 20 Vice-Admirals, and 35 Rear Admirals. It stands now at 11 Admirals, (to accommodate H. R. II.,) 20 Vice-Admirals, and only 34 Rear Admirals. Thus, but for trimming the list to royal claims, Capt. Jas Geo. Mead, the Senior on the Captains List, should have been a Rear Admiral two or three months ago. If H. R. II. had been made to serve the most limited period in all ranks fairly, he would be now just at the top of the Rear Admirals' List. We commend this case to Mr. Labouchere.

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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.

"Undoubtedly," said Mr. Blair in the Senate on Monday week, "a majority of the people of Canada is in favor of union." Mr. Blair will probably by and by find out the extent of his mistake, which has been due to the misrepresentation of their country by a factious, discontented and unpatriotic section of the Canadian press.

Desperate attempts have been made (in view of the Sheburne election) to shew the importance, or non-importance of the duty on flour. It strikes us that, in view of a deficit of 160,000,000 bushels of wheat in the European crops, the duty on American flour, or the enhanced price of Upper Canadian flour in the Maritime Provinces, will be alike sunk in the urgency of the European demand, which will pretty certainly absorb both the American and our own surplus.

It has been rumored that a small knot of annexationists in Ontario are considering the expediency of testing their strength in some of the constituencies by putting up at the next general election candidates in favor of political union with the States. Well, a general election may be a long way off, but whenever it comes they cannot do better. Disloyal and disaffected Canadians have brought about so much mischief and disturbance of the public mind that it would be a good thing to test their strength, which, it is pretty certain, is in inverse proportion to the noise they make. We fancy annexation would receive a quietus which would last it for the next twenty years.

The following remarkable muddle appears in the press. The Countess of Waldegross has been married four times. Her present husband is the famous Lord Collingsford. The reference intended is evidently to the late Countess Waldegrave, who married, as her fourth husband, the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue, afterwards Lord Carlingford. Lord Carlingford, though a man of marked ability, can scarcely be said to be "famous," a term much more applicable to his wife, who was a daughter of Ibrahim, famous as a singer for fifty or sixty years. Lady Waldegrave's salons were a social and political power, and she commanded at all times the love and respect of all who knew her. Lord Carlingford's tribute to the memory of his wife is as touching as if she had been a young bride.