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[FOR THE CRITIC.]

EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

The history of the famous "Prepper-Doyle trials" will present some strange features in criminal law, especially in a medico-legal point of view. One medical man was placed on the stand as an "expert" in firearms and gunshot wounds, and the cross examination revealed the fact that he had only the experience of three or four gunshot wounds. He was also unable to explain the difference between a "choke-bore" and a "rifle," or a "smooth-bore" and a "rifle." In fact he admitted that he had very little knowledge in firearms, and that his knowledge of gunshot wounds and guns was derived from "science." In other words his knowledge of medicine, surgery and collateral branches, gave him all the information about gunshot wounds and guns that he, as an "expert," possessed. This testimony was not received. Another medical witness was shown to have had great experience in firearms—having received two or three gunshot wounds himself, participated in a number of great battles in the Civil War in America, together with having, as a surgeon, attended about one thousand cases of gunshot wounds. Although it would seem that this witness was largely acquainted with projectiles, yet he did not claim to be an "expert," nor had he any knowledge of any medical or surgical "science," whereby the exact distance could be ascertained from the muzzle of a gun to the person on which a certain gunshot wound might be inflicted. It appeared from his testimony that different circumstances connected with firearms would make it very difficult to make an exact statement as to the distance from the muzzle of the gun to the object fired at. If the art of projectiles keeps on progressing as it has since the American war; this "mooted question" will continue to be a difficult problem. It is not a hard matter to tell the distance that a gun will carry for effective execution, but how far Peter Doyle was from the muzzle of the gun that inflicted the mortal wound, will perhaps never be precisely determined.

Some of our Canadian politicians should ponder well on the fraud and corruption that was practised in the United States in their last Presidential election before advocating Annexation to "Uncle Sam's" heavily mortgaged farm. It appears from reliable sources that votes were as openly bought and sold as merchandise, in the last contest for the Presidential chair.

The day is fast approaching when "Whiskey rings," "trusts" and "combinations" will plunge that country into another revolution. Sacrilegious hands are laid on the mechanism of a "free ballot" and a "fair count"—fraudulent election returns are sworn to, and no means taken to punish the offenders. It seems that the monopolists, under their "protection policy," have grown so rich out of the tax or tariff wrung from the people, that they can afford to purchase a "seat" for their President regardless of consequences or costs. The people seem powerless in the matter; and are rapidly drifting into the strong arm of a centralized despotism, whose mainspring is money, which is said to be "the root of all evil." The landmarks of their old "constitution" are fast being obliterated by the plowshare of fraud and corruption in their elections. Security and order can never exist in a country where the ballot-box is the merest farce. Let me say to "Continental-unity-Murray," that, without a speedy change in the state of the political affairs of the United States, the fate of all Republican institutions of all ages will overtake this much boasted "land of the free and home of the brave."

There seems to have been a "tempest in a teapot" in Hayti, resulting from the seizure by that fickle government of a steamer called the "*Haytien Republic*." Admiral Luce of the U. S. Navy, under orders from his government, proceeded with the *Galena* and *Yantic* to Port-au-Prince, the seat of the troubles, and demanded of Legitimé, the newly elected President, the surrender of the vessel. Under the fear of a threatened bombardment of the city, President Legitimé reluctantly complied with the demand of the United States authorities, and the prize was turned over to its owners under a salute of twenty-one guns. If the description of Hayti as given by some of the newspaper correspondents is correct, it would be better for the government of that country to be in the hands of a more intelligent class of people. It is the same old story that has followed the African race since the days of Moses. The Negroes are incapable of self government. They must either have a master, or a leader, or become Anthropophagists. They are a mystery—I might say a parody on the human race. The wisdom and learning of the ancient Egyptians kindled no light for them—the seeds of Christianity have always perished in the soil of Africa. In his native land the Negro has never risen from his savage state. A few generations passed in slavery in Christian lands only prepare him after being liberated to become a follower and not a leader in any of the arts of civilization. Hayti was preëminently better off under the French Government, than under her present rule of Negro Mobocracy.

VETERAN.

THE ART SCHOOL.

Comparatively few people, outside of those connected with it or in attendance at the classes, know what an amount of valuable work is being done by the Victoria School of Art and Design. THE CRITIC, having such a large circulation throughout the country, appears to be the best medium for letting those interested in art outside the city know of the advantages offered by this institution.

Some people have said that we ought to have our sidewalks and streets improved before going in for art schools, but, with all respect to these mistaken persons, I hold the opinion that the training given to the rising generation in this school will, in the near future, result in appreciable improvement in our city, and wherever the young men and women, who