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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.

The announcement that a verdict has been given against Sir William Gordon Cumming, in the famous bacarat case, will not cause much surprise. Among those who kept themselves informed of the events of the case, nothing else seemed possible. The testimony against the plaintiff was overwhelming.

Dr. MacLagan, formerly Bishop of Lichfield, has been appointed Archbishop of York in place of the late Dr. Magee, who enjoyed such a short tenure of his high office. This, it is expected, will be criticised by the former gentleman's opponents who dislike his extreme High-Church views, which are coupled with a strongly marked personality not likely to diminish the opposition of those who are adverse to his appointment. It was impossible, however, to make a selection which would please all. The new Archbishop is said to be devoted, zealous, energetic and experienced, and it is thought he will be a most successful administrator of affairs, if not as pre-eminently learned in theological matters as might be wished of one who fills the Primacy of the Northern Province. Still we think when a man is to be vested with such authority as pertains to this office, he should be very high indeed in his scholarly attainments and wisdom, or otherwise a spirit of intolerance may creep into our religion, which should not at all be the case. To our mind ecclesiastical ceremony is distasteful.

The revision of the Confession, which has been a matter of debate in the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States for the past two years, has been postponed for at least another year. The Committee to which the matter had been referred presented its report but the consideration of it will not come up during the present meeting of the Assembly. Instead of this it has been recommitted, and the whole subject has been left down to the Presbyteries for further consideration. Revising creeds is a rather ticklish work, and to eliminate from the Confession, which was framed in the middle of the 17th century, the dogmas that are unacceptable to the advanced thought of to-day without shattering the whole edifice appears almost impossible of accomplishment. Putting new wine in old bottles, and new cloth on old garments, is a practice the Great Teacher himself pointed out the uselessness of, and we fancy that the allowance of greater liberty in the terms of subscription to the Confession would be better for the present at least.

In another column we give some extracts from a volume of personal reminiscences of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, which has recently been published, and which will possess great interest for all who like to study such a fascinating personality. The fact that our dead Premier, Sir John Macdonald, has often been likened to Lord Beaconsfield, will lend an additional zest to the perusal of anything regarding his life. The career of Benjamin Disraeli possesses a romantic interest greater than that of any other statesman of the century.

The sad event, which for a week had been hourly expected, took place at Earncliffe about ten o'clock on Saturday evening last. Sir John's condition was made known every little while by the bulletins issued by the attending physicians, and the anxiety of the public to hear the latest news from the sick room never abated until the last. Now that the Premier is no more, even his enemies will be able to look with unbiassed vision upon the accomplishments of his lifetime. During nearly half a century of most active public life, he has brought to a successful issue numerous measures, many of which his bitterest opponents acknowledge to have been truly needful and full of wisdom. When we think of the number of envious eyes that have been watching his every movement, of those ever eager to misconstrue his words, we perceive how great were his abilities to enable him to hold the good will of the majority and carry the country along with him so enthusiastically and with such success. He has always been ready in speech, and frank and cordial in manner, characteristics which have had much to do with his popularity, but behind which was a spirit of great determination and perseverance. As a debater and diplomatist he ranked high. It looked strange only two weeks ago to see in the daily papers a report of his last speech in Parliament side by side with the announcement that he was dying. The most remarkable thing about the dead Premier was the universal hold he had upon the hearts of the people. From the Queen on the throne to the humblest subject, all were sorrow-stricken at his illness, and when his death took place a sense of personal loss was the uppermost feeling with the greater number of the people. In the churches on Sunday the sad event was feelingly referred to by nearly all the clergymen of the city. Flags were flown at half-mast, and an air of sadness pervaded the bright summer days succeeding the great statesman's death. We realize that Sir John Macdonald was the greatest statesman Canada has produced; the Confederation is largely his work, and his history may indeed be read in the nation's eyes. For Lady Macdonald and her family the sympathy of the people of Canada will be warm. The sense of loss which we all feel only makes this feeling for the bereaved relatives more marked. The dead Premier's body will rest in the cemetery at Kingston, Ontario.

The Halifax City Council has an unenviable reputation for inconsistency, and small wonder that it be so. A few months since the Council wrathily demanded that the Legislature snub that enterprising corporation, known as the Halifax Street Railway Co., and further that the Legislature should enact a law compelling the company to construct branch lines here, there and everywhere, as the interests of certain citizens made it desirable; the Council further requested the Legislature to make the company lay down pavement between its tracks and also two feet on the outside of the tracks. The Legislature also was asked to make the company do these things or to break its back by practically annulling the charter. Fortunately the Legislators were not caught napping. They heard what the representatives of the Council had to say, and took a common-sense view of the question. Said they, "Mr. Councillors, if you want street railways here, there and everywhere throughout the city, to suit the interests of Messrs. Tom, Dick and Harry, and if these roads will pay as handsomely as you assert they will, then let the city guarantee five cent. upon the cost of construction; and further, Mr. Councillors, if you want the company to pave the road-bed while you leave the other part of the street in its present condition, we authorize you to do it yourselves and charge the company five per cent. per annum upon the cost of construction." The company, realizing the necessity for extending its lines to the north-western part of the city, was not slow in making the necessary financial arrangements for defraying the expense of building and equipping the line, but the City Council, with admirable consistency, now changes front, and desires time to deliberate as to whether the proposed extension is advisable. Now, Mr. Councillors, this is not fair play. The company has the money and is prepared to construct the line and complete it within a few weeks time; but if you burk the project until the summer months have passed and gone, you need not expect the company to begin the operation of its new line after the profitable traffic is over. The company seeks to give Halifaxians an extended and improved service, and councillors who endeavor to thwart this enterprise, only win for themselves well-deserved contempt.