

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 judgement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Despite the attempts of Russia to undermine the throne of Prince Alexander, the popularity of the Bulgarian Prince is steadily increasing. Russian intrigue may for a time delude the semi-civilized inhabitants of the Central Asian States, but Russian duplicity is so well known in Europe that it cannot seriously affect the standing of Prince Alexander.

We have it on the authority of Professor Langley, that the temperature at the surface of the moon is twelve degrees below freezing point, or in other words twenty degrees above zero. Meteorologists state that the temperature at the surface of the earth is raised three degrees by the heat radiated from the moon's disc. Science has its anomalies quite as much as politics.

On the 9th of April, Gladstone will introduce into the British House of Commons his measure respecting the government of Ireland. This, it is understood, will be followed by one dealing with land reform. Whether or not Gladstone will succeed in retaining the support of Lord Hartington and the moderate Whigs, and Chamberlain and the Radicals, is still uncertain, but the grand old man appears to be confident of success.

The guarantee fund for the Indian and Colonial Exhibition now amounts to \$1,000,000. This, it is said, is sufficient to place the exhibition beyond the possibility of being a financial failure. It is satisfactory to note that the Canadian exhibit, if not the most curious, will be among the most important displayed at the grand show. Our agricultural exhibit will do more to advertise the country than the distribution of thousands of hand books respecting Canada and her resources.

The union of the scattered provinces of British America in one Dominion was in itself a grand conception, but the fathers of Confederation introduced one element of weakness in the federal system when they provided for the payment of subsidies to the respective provinces. Sooner or later there must be a readjustment of these subsidies, and when the time comes it may be well to consider whether or not each province should become the collector as well as the disbursing officer of the people's money.

Among the 102,000 stock-holders in the Panama Canal, are 16,000 women. DeLesseps has evidently not lost the confidence of the fair sex.

Within forty-eight hours two telegrams appeared in the daily press: the first announced that Gabriel Dumont was endeavoring to induce the American Indians to cross the Canadian frontier and join the red men of Canada in a general uprising; the second stated that the Dominion Government had received a communication from Dumont, demanding payment of the scrip due him as a half-breed settler. It has not yet transpired which of these telegrams is founded on fact, but it is quite evident that one, if not both, was manufactured out of whole cloth.

The readers of the *Chronicle* of Saturday last must have been surprised to learn from its editorial on "Trouble in Belgium," that in respect to population, it was the second power in Europe. Five thousand persons to the square mile would be quite the average of a Nova Scotia village, but the Belgians may be thankful that the population of their country is not quite as the *Chronicle* represents; the fact being that an equal distribution of land in Belgium would give to each man, woman and child an acre and a quarter of land. The Belgians still have elbow-room.

The Chinese who entered the United States, before the Government laid an embargo upon Mongolian immigration, are entitled to the full protection of the law; and the rash attempt that is now being made to expel from the state of California its 120,000 Chinese inhabitants must end in failure. The anti-Chinese league should direct their attention to preventing a further augmentation of the Chinese immigrants, and not lay themselves open to censure by violating the laws of the land.

The eyes of the American people are now turned upon President Cleveland, and all await anxiously the result of the conflict now going on between the Chief Magistrate and the Senate of the United States. Cleveland as a democrat favored Civil Service Reform, and undertook not to dismiss any person from office excepting for good and sufficient reasons. The Senate, with its republican majority, questions the President's motives in dismissing from office certain persons, and demands from Cleveland the papers showing the grounds for such removals. These the President firmly declines to submit for the inspection of the Senate, and so the tug of war goes on.

A movement to abolish the Legislative Council in New Brunswick should again turn the attention of Nova Scotians to the question of the abolition of the Upper Chamber in this Province. While the honorable members who now occupy seats in this Chamber might naturally object to legislating themselves out of existence, we think they would one and all sign an agreement for the abolition of the Chamber in the year 1900. This would give the present members a lease of their sittings for 14 years, which, taking the average of their ages, might be considered as equitable. In the event of a vacancy each new appointee should, before being sworn in, be pledged to the abolition of the Council at the date named. We offer this solution as one which would at once be accepted, and be considered just, by the members of the Upper Chamber.

In an article on "Gerald Griffin," in *United Ireland*, Mr. Justin McCarthy, M. P., says:—"To my mind, . . . Gerald Griffin's 'Collegians' is the work in Irish prose fiction to which the foreign student of our country might be most advisedly referred. Englishmen have for too long drawn their ideas about Ireland from the pages of Lever's novels, have too long deluded themselves into the belief that that grotesque carnival of riotous dragoons, of comic peasants, of castle hacks, and practical jokers from Trinity, makes up the sum and substance of Irish life and Irish character. As a matter of fact, the Arabian Nights, in spite of their wizards and witches, their incantations and enchantments, their roc's eggs and their magic lamps, present a far more faithful picture of the Egypt of to-day than Lever's novels do of the Ireland of his time or of any time."

OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME.

There is nothing upon which the future of Nova Scotia so much depends as upon our vast wealth of minerals and fish. Parents ought to impress upon the minds of their children the fact that the facilities for making a good living by mining or marine industry are as great in this Province as in any other part of the world. Intelligent and industrious young men, with a certain amount of special training, will, a very few years hence, find numerous positions of trust and emolument awaiting them in this Province.

Last season, it is true, our fishermen received but scanty returns for their toil. There are the strongest reasons for believing, however, that this was an altogether exceptional circumstance not likely soon again to arise. Our American cousins think they can make us to them the merest "hewers of wood and drawers of water"; that they can, by unfair and high-handed international dealing, make us obsequiously cringe to them and give them access to the wealth that teems in our coast-waters. They therein commit an egregious mistake. We have them "on the hip." Without access to