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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.

Journalism is said to be looking up in the Celestial Empire. There are now, it is stated, three newspapers published in that country, and another is to be soon started. In China, by the way, if a paper publishes an untrue statement about anyone, not only is the editor punished but all the readers as well. Chinese methods, at least as far as dealing with editors goes, are much to be commended; as for the readers in Christian countries, they are sufficiently punished by being condemned to read the falsehoods and rubbish daily inflicted upon them.

Information from various sources points to the fact that Sir Henry Parke's efforts for the establishment of an Australian Federation are gaining increased support. The expediency of such a measure is beyond all doubt. Australia has no antagonistic external influences to consider, while the inter-colonial difficulties which may exist should be as nothing in view of the comprehensive import of the great end to be attained. There is no doubt that the example of Canada has done much to stimulate the Federation idea, and by none more than by Canada will the birth of a sister Dominion be more heartily welcomed, while its accomplishment will facilitate the closer relations which are even now in process of formation.

The question of the extension of the railway along the water front of the harbor and the widening of Upper Water Street is one of great importance, and it would be timely if the matter were now discussed by the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade. Our representatives should be furnished with a well formulated scheme, endorsed by our leading business men, with which to approach the Government at the coming session of Parliament, when there is little doubt but that the measure will receive substantial aid. Some "penny wise, pound foolish" property owners now oppose the extension, or put obstacles in the way by demanding exorbitant sums for the privilege of carrying the railway over or across their lands. These individuals should be interviewed and all possible pressure brought to bear upon them to make their demands reasonable. Liberal minded citizens can be made to see that their properties will be so greatly enhanced in value by the extension, that they can well afford to grant the right of way free, while the hopelessly sordid will have to be dealt with in some decided way, as such a great necessity as the extension should not be blocked by foolish and shortsighted individuals.

Stanley, it is reported, is about to visit Germany, though it appears doubtful whether his reception in that country will be very cordial. Stanley's special mission, it will be remembered, was to relieve Emin Pasha. After his arrival in Emin's province he was forced to wait some months before the Germans made up their minds to accompany him. Stanley seems to have been unable to refrain from imputing blame to Emin for the results of the delay, which were disastrous enough. Emin being a German the tie of nationality impels the German papers to relieve Emin of the blame and ascribe it to Stanley. They assume that Stanley's expedition when it reached Emin's province was so disorganized that it needed help instead of being in a position to afford it, and the real question for Emin was whether he would use his forces to conduct Stanley out of the wilderness. We fancy Stanley's version is the correct one, but it is much to be deplored that such bickerings should mar the results of conduct so heroic on both sides.

It is now well known that Capt. O'Shea has instituted proceedings for a divorce, naming Mr. Parnell as co-respondent. This is a case in which it would be very unfair to form a premature opinion. Should there be found to be grounds for O'Shea's implication nothing would be more regrettable. That a leader who has proved himself capable of reason and moderation in the conduct of Home Rule agitation—a leader who has, indeed, been the best and safest Ireland has seen—should be in apparent danger of that sort of eclipse which has been fatal to the political career of Sir Charles Dilke—not that there is any comparison between the two cases—is to be deplored, and all men will rejoice to see Mr. Parnell exonerated. It is, moreover, to be borne in mind that Capt. O'Shea is a man of more than doubtful character, and that so far as the public knows Mr. Parnell's character, there is no ground for hasty or implicit belief in the accusation brought against him. There is therefore fair ground to hope for his vindication.

Several Educational journals have lately published some very sensible remarks on elocution, which, it is affirmed, is often cultivated, sometimes with but little judgment, while the mass of pupils in the schools are incapable of reading with clearness, precision and right emphasis. To many persons of taste the ordinary exhibitions of elocution are more painful than attractive. Exaggerated action and exaggerated emphasis are too often the most prominent manifestations of these *tours de force*, to the exclusion of true feeling which is almost always subdued in cultivated persons. The same distaste, which steals over the better-part of a theatrical audience at the exhibition of "rant" in an actor, frequently makes itself felt at the ambitious but too often misdirected energy of the youthful aspirant after elocutionary honors. Elocutionary displays may fairly enter into school courses and exercises, but it is incumbent on teachers and educational authorities to see that the cultivation of a talent agreeable when kept within due bounds be narrowly watched and restricted to the dictates of good taste.

Sometime ago we excised from the *Eastern Echo* the following letter to that journal:—

"CULCHAW."—In a late number of the *Critic*—which journal is nothing if not literary and independent,—*vide passim*, I observed a quotation by a correspondent in Kashmir, which as evidence of culture and classic attainment struck me forcibly. The writer, speaking of the "beautiful camping grounds" in that romantic valley, says—"it recalls dear old Horace. Tityre tu patulae recubans sub tegmine laci." The ability to recall an appropriate quotation shows the intimate acquaintance of the writer with the classics, and it gratifies one's patriotic aspirations that such minds are not above contributing to our native literature. I can best testify my admiration of the writer and journal by another quotation, this time from "dear old" Virgil:—

"Ad urbem ivit Doodlus, cum
Caballo et calone,
Pluma ornavit pileum
Et dixit, 'Macaroni.'"

—Onderdonk.

Now a fatality of oversight seems to have attended the slip alluded to. Our contributor is a cultivated Halifax gentleman, who is an officer of Artillery, and his queer error must have been a slip of the pen in the first place. Secondly, it escaped notice before being set up; and lastly, though we cut out "Onderdonk's" amusing letter, something prevented our reading it with due care, and then it got mislaid, till we stumbled upon it a day or two ago. On re-reading it we think it is too clever and appropriate to be burked. Had it not been for these accidents we should certainly have published it when we first saw it. The quotation from "dear old Horace" is so entirely familiar—not to say hackneyed—that our clever critic will easily believe that nothing but haste and inattention could have caused us to miss it. In the meantime we commend Virgil's "Yankee Doodle," to all men.