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Some persons started a report that the treasury of the World's Fair was bankrupt, that it had drawn its last cent and used its last postage stamp. The report has been authoritatively contradicted and the statement made that the Exposition has now \$2 500,000 cash in bank and about a million more in sight.

Mr Cleveland is again forced to write a letter declining a proposed tribute to one of his domestic circle. He has the same objection to his baby-daughter, Ruth, becoming a party in the campaign that he had to the proposed nomination of his wife by the "Democratic Ladies' Club." He declines to give his little daughter's picture for publication, and adds: "We are doing all we can to check the notoriety which would be increased by such a publication." Whether Mr. Cleveland's decision will cause him loss or gain in the excitement of the coming election is uncertain, but it was time assuredly that some pronounced personage should put himself on record as being an opponent to the domestic publicity which has played so prominent a part in American politics.

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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.

Many of the young people of our Province would be delighted if a branch of the Bicycle Insurance Co. of New York should be established in Nova Scotia. The New York Co. insures against accidental breakage, and employs skilled mechanics for making the necessary repairs. Where the damage cannot be remedied the policy-holder is given a new machine. Such a company would be most popular with amateurs at the art. They would feel a pleasing financial freedom, along with the usual physical discomfort, when "circumstances over which they had no control" compelled them to take "a header."

The Hon. G. R. Dibbs, Premier of New South Wales, has been setting forth the charms of colonial life before London audiercits. He has strong objections to Australasia being made a depot for General Booth's "submerged tenth," neither does he want black or yellow immigrants, in which his views resemble those of many communities where the people are not inclined to participate in philanthropic experiments. Mr. Dibbs gives some interesting statistics. Australasia, he says, covers an area equal to two-fifths of that of the whole British Empire, yet its population is but four millions. His present business in London is in consolidating the loans which at various times have been made to New South Wales. The money has been used for the building of railroads and telegraphs, which are now the property of the Colonial Government.

The question as to whether the completion of the Nicaraguan Canal will or will not stimulate ship-building in the United States is being thoroughly discussed. The Suez Canal, for instance, which was built by French Engineers, French enterprise and French capital, did not stimulate ship-building in France, but as the *Scientific American* points out, the cases are not parallel. There is no doubt that the Suez Canal has greatly enlarged commerce with Great Britain, and that ship-building in that country was much encouraged by its completion. This was because Great Britain, not France, had obtained the controlling interest in the stock of the Canal, and because her statesmen well knew how to take the fullest advantage of the situation. In the Nicaraguan Canal there is little doubt that the United States will occupy the same position which has benefited the Mother-country in the Suez Canal, and, when a safe short service between the Eastern and Western seaboard is attained, it is certain that the mutual commerce will demand the revival of ship-building. This will be good news to many builders who, for many years, have been forced into inaction.

Mr. Gladstone is in far from a pleasant position. He has a nominal majority of 42 in the House of Commons, but whether he can hold the elements of his party together yet remains to be seen. Mr. Gladstone has a half century of parliamentary life behind him, but never before has his Government or one with which he has been associated had to deal with such important and varied questions. Home Rule for Ireland, the eight hour movement, the one man one vote question and the further extension of the suffrage to agricultural laborers are the distinctive issues which have to be considered. It will need no ordinary skill upon the part of the Grand Old Man to give the priority to one of these questions and at the same time retain the support of his entire following.

The table-land of Tibet is supporting a peculiar people. There are few countries in the world where the sexes, which are about even in numbers, are so abnormally balanced. For every household on the table-land there are three lamas or priests, the greater number of whom are bound to celibacy, the lamseries, or monasteries, being so numerous the surplus women of the country are forced to become nuns. Married couples are comparatively rare, and there is no likelihood that the present population of 8,500,000, who are merely sprinkled over the vast plateau, will increase. The lamas are not only the priests but also the judges of the country, as they own enormous tracts of land, and have both serfs and bondsmen sworn to allegiance, they are a gigantic power in the state, and the shawl, which is the lama's usual costume, can be readily changed for the more manly habiliment of trousers when a call to arms is sounded.

One of the causes of the famine in Russia, though at first sight a remote one, is being commented upon by Prof. Bogdanow, a German authority. For the past thirty years, the Russian forests have been ruthlessly destroyed, so much so, that now Western Europe, which is given over to industrial pursuits, is richer in woodland than the once famed forest plains of Central Russia. The destruction of the trees has resulted in the drying up of much formerly arable land—the rivers and lakes are lower in their water level—and immense tracts of quick-sand are continually encroaching upon the once cultivated land. Not only has the natural character of the country been impoverished by these misdirected efforts of man, but the climate has also been seriously affected, the temperature throughout the former forest land having increased by 3 degrees in summer and decreased by the same number of degrees in the winter. Prof. Bogdanow predicts that the "black earth" of Russia, which was once proverbial for its productiveness, will, unless the trees are restored, become a desert region.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, with its half million of members, is about embarking on a desperate undertaking. The Union is to make a gigantic effort to do away with the "trained gown," which it characterizes as a "street-dragging, germ gathering, mud-collecting, back-breaking, constitution destroying device." The leading women of the Prohibition Party, the Women's Republican League, the People's Party and the Francis Cleveland Club are enrolled. The pledge is a unique one, but it is not adapted to melt the heart of a confirmed society woman, who will probably be as difficult to reform as a tippler. It reads: "Resolved, That inasmuch as the wearing of trained dresses is compulsory at the courts of kings, it is a fashion that may well be set at naught by the women of a republic; and, since a style of dress which keeps a woman continually clutching at her garments detracts from her dignity and moral influences as well as from her freedom and comfort, and whereas, by the wearing of trains our sisters are made weak, we will wear no trains while the world stands."