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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.

Grip's Comic Almanac for 1888 is "quite too funny for anything." Paper, letter-press, engraving and the quality of the facsimile are all good alike.

We have only just received a number of *American Art Illustrated* for July last. We presume some postal accident must have kept it back. It is a high-class periodical, and highly interesting to the real lover of art. An etching which forms the frontispiece is particularly good, and the "marks" of early printers are exceedingly interesting.

Coal owners and miners are very well satisfied with the condition of trade. Montreal, in the opinion of *Saward's Coal Trade Journal*, a great American authority, is a natural market for Nova Scotia coal. The average wage of a Spruighill miner is about \$2.50 a day, which is a higher rate than that earned by the miners of Pennsylvania, where, of course also, living is dearer.

We doubt the correctness of an item which has recently appeared, to the effect that Mr. Gladstone has changed his mind about visiting the United States, and will proceed thither in April. There is every prospect in the present aspect of party lines, that the ensuing session of Parliament will be a stormy one; and if the great liberal leader is fit for work at all, the session will probably make the most exacting demands on all the energy he can command.

The prominent feature in the December number of the *American* is "Christ-Ideals in American Art," both on canvas and in marble. Some of these are strikingly noble and dignified. The American sculptor seems to have somewhat more emancipated himself from imitation of mediæval conceptions, than has the painter, yet some of the engravings from pictures manifest considerable originality joined to what may perhaps be called propriety of treatment. Frank Moss' "Boy Christ among the Doctors" is a notable example. Edgar Fawcett's clever novel, *Olivia Delaplaine*, continues to be the "pièce de résistance." The remainder of the number is of ordinary magazine character.

In 1878, the amount of coal sold from our mines was 693,511 tons. In 1886, 1,373,666 tons. The provincial revenue has thus been increased by royalty to the amount of \$50,000 a year. In 1878 the amount sold to the Upper Provinces was 83,710 tons. In 1886, 538,762 tons. The sales to the United States have, it is true, fallen from 88,000 to 66,000 tons, and, according to the pessimists, there is no market in the Upper Provinces for any product of Nova Scotia, which is also in an increasing state of destitution as to revenue.

The European fire-eaters who aim at bringing on war, have received a "set-back" in the election of M. Sadi Carnot to the Presidency, over the heads of M.M. de Freycinet and Ferry. The eclaireissements which are said to have attended the interview of Prince Bismarck with the Czar seem to have shewn that forged letters had been imposed on that potentate and his advisers, by enemies of the Prince. The statement that Russian papers are absolutely forbidden to discuss the relations between Russia and Germany lends color to the report, and at the same time seems to tend to the maintenance of peace for the present.

The London *Morning Post* has circumstantially described a Fenian plot which, it asserted, had been concocted to murder Lord Hartington and Mr. Gosehen, or to carry off the former and hold him as a hostage. Despite the circumstantiality the story has an air of improbability, and we hope it is unfounded, as we should be very sorry to see the Irish cause further compromised by another conspicuous case of murder or violence. The sacrifice of a second member of the Devonshire family could only have a most exasperating effect, which would neutralize or reverse the advocacy Ireland now receives from English Members of Parliament and the English public.

M. Grevy's son-in-law and his fellow-corruptionists had well nigh brought about a very promising hurly-burly. They loosened the hounds of insensate faction, and it might well have been that they might also have unkenelled the dogs of war. They succeeded in raising a howl to which M. Grevy had to succumb, and incited riots in the streets of Paris. These, however, seem to have been pretty summarily dealt with, and the crisis has apparently ended less disastrously than might have been anticipated. M. Sadi Carnot, whose name will be strange to most readers, has been elected, and the satisfaction expressed in many quarters at the result of the ballot, indicates that the new President is regarded as a man of ability and moderation. The result of the election appears to have given satisfaction to the Vatican.

We have often pointed out that the value of the C. P. R., like that of every institution purely and peculiarly national and Canadian, was to be measured by the abuse of it coming from over the border. The rise of Canadian manufactures has excited the wrath of a section of the United States public to no inconsiderable degree, but the indirect methods adopted to strangle them before they become too strong, are mild in expression compared with the execrations poured out on the C. P. R. by North-Western American lines with which it has interfered. Meanwhile the "octopus" and "devil fish" line goes on increasing in wealth and strength, builds its great steamers, doubles its freight cars, creates a China and Japan trade, strengthens naval and military facilities, and all the time builds up the great North-West, whose ample harvests this year will be the means of bringing out thousands of emigrants next spring. No wonder our American cousins who desire the fee-simple of the entire continent are exercised. Apropos—it seems to us that if our own province were half as well advertised and advocated in England as the North-West is by the able agents of the C. P. R., a degree of emigration to Nova Scotia might be induced which would materially add to our prosperity.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The indications afforded by the present state of political parties in Great Britain point to the next session of Parliament as one which will probably be almost without a parallel in excitement, and in the complexity of the party strife. The old lines have been broken and crossed by conflicting opinions in a fashion such as has never before been seen, and it is quite impossible even to guess at what the issues may be.

The great split in the Liberal ranks, consequent on Mr. Gladstone's sudden right about-turn, created for the nonce the two great parties of Unionism and Separatism. But these were not homogeneous. They were both coalitions. The force of a great principle stamped the compact of what may perhaps be called the Whig section of the Liberals with the Conservatives, with an unquestionable sincerity which was almost as certainly wanting at first to the Gladstone-Parnellite alliance.

But lapse of time is evidently, as, indeed, might have been expected,