

A proposition emanates from Holland for an European combination against the United States as a retaliation for the antagonism shown by the latter country to European trade. Such a combination would be very disastrous to the States, but the importance of the food products received in Europe from America renders such an action impossible.

The *Quebec Morning Chronicle* of the 30th ult. records the fact that the immigrant season of 1890 opened with a rush on the arrival of the *Sardinian* at that port the previous day, that vessel having landed over 1,000 immigrants, while the *Oregon's* passengers numbered some 240. "The best class of arrivals," the *Chronicle* says, "were undoubtedly those booked for the Canadian Northwest. These were all well-to-do English farmers with families, and other middle-class people with means, intending to settle in the new districts of Canada." One body of 200 colonists accompanied by their clergyman intended making a Church of England colony. There were also a party of 80 Catholic boys and girls in charge of their priest, and every advice and assistance was at hand for the safeguard of unattended women and girls.

Without any exception the worst case of the overhead bearing rein abomination we have ever seen drew up close to THE CRITIC office about two o'clock last Friday afternoon. The victim was a fine looking and apparently spirited animal, and perhaps the owner, or driver, was afraid of letting him have his head. Be that as it may, the instrument of torture was so tautly braced that the animal's nose was triced up to very nearly the plane of the top of his head, whereof the only movement the poor beast could make was from side to side, which he did in a manner that unmistakeably indicated his misery. This horrible device, which is as ugly as it is cruel, ought to come under the law of Cruelty to Animals. Were it so we should have certainly ascertained the owner and made it a case for Mr. Naylor. As it was, several gentlemen passing paused to take stock of the exhibition with evident pity and disgust.

To the many channels of employment opened of late years to women may be now added, according to the *Nursing Record*, that of the apothecary. The English Pharmaceutical Society has, it appears, allowed women to enter for its examinations, and several have passed them with the success which we are certain may generally be commanded by the female student. To become a pharmaceutical chemist it is necessary to pass three examinations—a preliminary one in Latin, English and arithmetic—unless the candidate has passed the Oxford or Cambridge Local, or the examination of the College, Preceptors. The examinee must also prove that she has undergone training under an experienced chemist or at a technical college, and has for three years been practically engaged in the translation and dispensing of prescriptions. To all who desire to see the sphere of female independence and self-support enlarged, every new occupation which may open to the clear heads and dextrous fingers of young women will afford unmixed satisfaction, and that of the apothecary seems to us quite as fitting as any to which they have as yet taken.

The *Eastern Chronicle* of the 1st instant has an interesting column and a half headed "Literary Gossip." Its remarks on "scrofulous literature" are not only clever but ethically and aesthetically true. *Inter alia* some very just remarks are made concerning a new cheap edition of Charles Kingsley's novels, which, it is stated, has attained a sale of over a million copies. To Kingsley the writer accords the meed of praise which is his just due, and goes on to say:—"Yet is it not strange that you will look in vain for these books in any of our bookstores? It surely cannot be that there is no demand. Some of us have had to send to Pictou for them—and that should not be. There are six volumes of them, and they present such a fine appearance that they would 'set off' any bookstore. *Verb. sap.*—perhaps our enterprising friends will take the hint. Why should Kingsley not have as great a run here as 'Robert Elsmere' had, or as Edward Bellamy is having even yet? I am sure he is just as worthy of it; there is more 'staying power' in him than either of these two; and he does not leave a bad taste in the mouth either." We are lovers of both the Kingsleys; and reckon "Westward Ho!" as one of the half-dozen best novels in the language. The remarks of the writer in the *Eastern Chronicle* therefore command our thorough appreciation.

Theoretically Republicanism is the supreme form of Government, and it might be assumed that the higher the civilization and intelligence of a people the fitter that people would be found for its rule by itself. Exceptions are said to prove rules, but it may be a question whether a rule is proved if the exceptions be too numerous, especially where they are most strongly marked in precisely the instances in which we should assume they would not be exceptional at all. We are not surprised when continual revolutions and chronic anarchy mark the course of semi-civilized and ill-educated, or totally uneducated, communities, but we stand amazed at the fact that the most highly educated and unquestionably in some respects the most intelligent commonwealth in the world is also the most politically corrupt. It may be hoped that in the United States a public conscience will some day gain sufficient growth to crush the baser leaven, but in other republics the lower state of intelligence does not present a cheerful prospect. In Brazil a republic in name overthrew a government which secured to the country all the freedom and more than the stability of any South American republic, and is now developing a despotic tyranny which is as astonishing as it is retrogressive. It must be distasteful to sober-minded citizens of the United States to find their Government sending to the arbitrary Junta which at present controls Brazil, its congratulations on the adoption by that country of Government by the people!

If we may believe current reports Emin Pasha's little game has been neatly stopped. No sooner had he been allowed to get his formidable caravan fairly started towards the interior of Africa than we were informed that the country over which he hoped to hoist the German flag, south of his old territory, has been already opened up by Mr. Jackson, leader of an expedition which was quietly sent out last summer by the British East African Company, and the whole of the Uganda Territory on the north of the lake had been placed under British Protection. It is to be hoped this is true. The country has been opened up mainly by British adventure, and it is only fair that Great Britain should not be superseded in the results of her spirit of enterprise by a power which has done comparatively little of the work of exploration.

We have more than once pointed out the desirability of the military organization of youth under various conditions all over the Dominion, as a disciplining and healthful influence and one calculated to foster a sense of patriotism. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we learn from a St. John contemporary that "a Company of the Boys Brigade of Canada, a semi-military Sunday school organization, was organized in connection with St. John's Presbyterian Church last fall by Rev. Mr. Fotheringham, with T. M. Seesley as Captain. The Company, the first organized in the Lower Provinces, was inspected by Lt.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., in the presence of Sir Leonard Tilley, Col. Armstrong and other officers, and a large number of other persons. The boys went through the various marching movements in fine style, and were highly complimented by inspecting officers and visitors. They wear neat caps and have dummy rifles made in Glasgow. A Company is being formed in Fredericton, and there are several in the Upper Provinces. They are popular in the old country." Is not this example worth the consideration of Halifax?

The French Commission appointed to investigate the state of the unfortunate Panama Canal undertaking reports that \$9,000,000 worth of work has been done, and that it will take \$18,000,000 more to complete the work even on the lock scheme. They estimate that it could be finished within eight years. They propose a guarantee by the Maritime nations, which of course means chiefly Great Britain. Considering that France continues to stand in the way of England's reducing the interest on Egyptian bonds by consolidating the debts of that country, the proposition does no discredit to French coolness and selfishness. England, owing to persistent French obstruction, has been fatally hampered in her endeavors to lighten the burden under which Egypt groans, and is little likely to incur embarrassment by mixing herself up with a French scheme on this side of the water. Nevertheless we have always thought it a pity that the grand enterprise of M. de Lesseps was not initiated by a combination of all the greater Maritime countries of the world, and it is sad to contemplate the waste of so gigantic an expenditure both of life and treasure.

Another irrepressible American Senator has been working up an excitement about the C. P. R., which is simply discreditable to a people of such enormous wealth and unbounded pretensions as that of the United States. Mr. Cullom raves about the C. P. R. and its line of ships running between Vancouver and the east, sweeping away all the shipping of San Francisco, and causing the grass to grow in its streets; and it is astonishing to find respectable and well-informed journals like the *New York Tribune* committing themselves to the absurd proposition. Even were the ridiculous assumption in any degree warranted it is no business of ours, and it never seems to occur to the obtuse perceptions of the American alarmists that their virulent denunciations of the "enormous cost" of the C. P. R. sound very much like impertinence, as it is likewise no business of theirs what we choose to pay for the building up of our country. Mr. Cullom goes into figures which, if they were correct (which they are not), are matter in which we are alone concerned, and not the United States. The circumstances of our country made our great trans-continental road a necessity, and we are going to make the best of it. It happens to be also of benefit to New England, which is satisfactory to Canada; but if it were not, the people of the United States may be sure that nothing but distaste and resentment can be generated by the violence, bad taste and superciliousness of their fire-eating and exceedingly crude legislators.

The *St. John Globe*, which winces at every step taken or proposal made towards building up the Canadian nation, is naturally exercised at the proposition to increase the grant in aid of immigration, and has to say that "experience has dearly taught Canadians that the greater portion of the money spent in propagandism of this kind has been wasted, and the result in the future will no doubt be the same as in the past." As, according to the *Globe*, there is no population in the North West, while the exodus is depopulating the East, perhaps an additional effort to secure a little complementary influx may present itself to the Maritime American organ in the light of throwing good money after bad. This is not, however, the general view of the Canadian people, and while the *Globe* is wailing over the proposed expenditure, the *Gazette* is advocating for New Brunswick what we have heretofore urged for Nova Scotia, i.e., some Provincial effort to disseminate in the British Islands sound information of the great natural capabilities of the Province. As the *Gazette* justly remarks:—"At the present time, so far as we are aware, there is no existing pamphlet which gives a good account of this Province or its capabilities, so that persons in the British Islands who desire to come to Canada have hardly any opportunity of knowing what this Province can do for them in the way of providing them with a livelihood." What is true of New Brunswick is true of Nova Scotia. Let our next Government, of whichever stripe it may be, look to it. We want population and development, therefore immigration.