

# THE CRITIC:

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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.

The number of fatalities from enraged bulls which have occurred of late should be a warning to all men in charge of such animals. On Saturday morning last, George Romeau, of West Chezzetcook, was gored to death, and his step son was seriously injured, by a bull that was grazing in a field, which Romeau attempted to take to the stable. It is impossible to exercise too much care with such dangerous beasts, and probably those regarded as most dangerous are likely to do less harm than the bull that is not cross, for greater precautions are likely to be observed.

We have received a printed copy of Sir John Thompson's Criminal Law Bill, which is a document of 340 pages, besides 26 pages of indexes. This bill received its first reading on May 12th and its second on May 19th. It may be regarded as one of the most important measures introduced in this session of parliament, and will no doubt add lustre to the name of the Minister of Justice. Owing to the bulk and importance of the bill, and warm weather and press of work, we cannot attempt at present any further comment on it. It is not probable the bill will be passed this session, and there will be plenty of time before the next one for the codification to be thoroughly examined and studied by persons familiar with criminal procedure. An immense amount of labor is represented in the bill.

Mr. Healy, in the Imperial Parliament last week, roared as gently as a sucking dove, in fact he seemed quite inclined to agree with Mr. Balfour in many particulars. The momentous announcement made by the latter, that a local government bill for Ireland will be brought in by the Government next session has rather taken the wind out of the sails of the Irish party, Mr. Healy when asked if he would give his support to such a bill, replied "Certainly." It is prophetic that local government will only increase the desire for Home Rule, but however much the Government may have conceded, it is not probable that it will go so far as granting Home Rule. The concessions of the Government have already been remarkable, and the breadth and liberalism it has been showing is creating consternation among the Gladstonians. Irish affairs have been successfully dealt with, an education bill has been passed, and in many respects signs are not wanting that Toryism in England is keeping up with the times.

Russia is like a big bully who needs a good thrashing to bring him to his senses. The thrashing will have to come some day, and the sooner the disagreeable but necessary work is performed, the neater will be the

day when Europe may rest without anxiety. The haughty and provoking attitude of this unelevated empire towards other nations is very exasperating, and must ultimately bring on hostilities. We need not fear the result of such a disturbance, for the Russian national structure is cracked in every direction, and could never stand a determined and well conducted attack from without. The talk about its immense army is delusive and mere balderdash at the foundation; although the numbers may be literally correct, still the army, together with the remainder of the country, wants that concentration of mind and heartiness of spirit which would guarantee success in the event of war. The nation is in a corrupt state, and it is only through fear that its subjects are kept within any degree of submission. The grumbings are constant, certain factions are desperate, and new plots are almost daily being discovered. How could such a decayed country repel an opposing force? If Russia had the sense to weigh the chances of defeat and future downfall, she would cease this absurd bluff game and play a wiser hand. If she does not see things as they are and will be, then someone must have the pleasure of thrashing the bully, and it matters little what nation throws off its coat for that purpose.

Bishop Perry, of Iowa, is under a cloud. He is accused of plagiarism on a large scale, and if parallel columns are to be believed the proof of this wandering off into the shade some distance from the middle of the road is pretty conclusive. The active and acrimonious canvass which Bishop Perry carried on against the confirmation of Dr. Phillips Brooks as Bishop of Massachusetts has aroused the friends of the latter gentleman against the former, and they appear to have found a very weak spot in his armor. It is stated that Bishop Perry's "Life Lessons from Proverbs" is largely stolen from a lecture published in 1851, entitled "The Christian Character in Connection with Several Pursuits," by the Rev. George Fisk, Prebendary of Litchfield. Bishop Perry's book was published in 1885, and owing to the extreme rarity of the book from which he is accused of appropriating long passages, making only some few changes in the punctuation, is probably due its long immunity from detection. This autumn a searching ecclesiastical investigation will be made, and appearances indicate that it will go hard with Bishop Perry. As every one knows Bishop Perry was elected Bishop of Nova Scotia after Bishop Binney's death, but he declined to come. The Church of England in this diocese will have cause for thankfulness that he so decided, should the investigation prove that he is a literary pirate who did not scruple to steal the products of another's brain. We are not, however, in a position to judge or condemn, and until the investigation decides one way or another, the benefit of the doubt must be allowed.

This is now the height of the holiday season, and hundreds of people are on the wing all over the Province. Some settle down in one chosen spot, and proceed to improve or waste the time in various ways, while others fit from one locality to another, stopping only a few days at each. We wish to draw the attention of the former class to the subject of reading matter. It is a generally acknowledged fact that more utter trash in the way of literature is read in the summer months than at any other period, and to our mind there is no reason why such mental pabulum should be less injurious then than in the autumn, winter or spring. When a man or woman seeks physical and mental refreshment in change of air and scenery, there ought to be some desire to profit by it in every way possible, and the quality of the books read at such times is just as important in its way as the quality of the food on the table, or the sleepableness of the beds. Many people do not take a supply of books to the country, preferring to pick up anything that comes in their way as they go along, and thus usually present to their minds a variety that is truly bewildering. Of course, study is not what we would recommend to any one who is "vacating," but we know from experience that a deep feeling of satisfaction may be engendered in the mind by reading standard works rather than the trash of the home, which is too cheap and too dear, too easily come by and too injurious to the mind. The standard novels, such as Scott's, Dickens', Thackeray's, George Elliot's and several others will bear more than one reading, and lead one to a world of delight unknown in the frothy, evanescent writings one sees so often in the hands of the loungers in the hammock. The decreased cost of the works we recommend leaves no excuse for those who blame their stern purses for the quality of their reading matter. "Penny dreadfuls" and "billings shockings" can well enough be left alone when good books can be procured for the same prices. We hope some day to see the reading public reject trash, and so put an end to its production. The public is responsible for a great deal, and not the least among its sins is this one of buying books that are injurious in their tone, and work incalculable harm among young people. Men and women of mature minds should by no means lose sight of their responsibilities in this matter.