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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 disclosures now being made by Mr. Tarte, editor of *La Canadien*, with respect to the part played by Mr. Thomas McGreevy, member of the House of Commons, in aiding the firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co., in which his brother Robert McGreevy owned a one-third interest, to secure contracts for public works by unfair means, reveal a shocking state of affairs. Mr. Tarte is publishing in *La Canadien* letters from Mr. Thomas McGreevy to his brother, plainly showing that a screw was loose somewhere. A quarrel occurred between the McGreevy brothers, hence the recriminations. A libel suit between Mr. Thomas McGreevy and Mr. Tarte was postponed from the last sitting of the Supreme Court until the spring term, when the scandal will have to be sifted to the bottom. The worst feature of the affair is that Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works, is also charged with receiving money for his part in the matter. It appears that Mr. Thomas McGreevy received large sums of money for his assistance, and as the friendship between that gentleman and Sir Hector is very close, it is implied that the latter must also have shared in the consideration. Meanwhile, pending the settlement of the affair in court, or by a parliamentary commission, the judgment of individuals and the press must be suspended. Sir Hector makes no answer to the charges.

The arrival of the anxiously-looked-for steamer *Boston* at Yarmouth on Monday morning lifted a weight of care from the brains of those interested in her welfare. During the voyage much tempestuous weather was encountered, but the behaviour of the steamer all through was such as to stamp her as a splendid sea-going boat. Not the slightest damage of any kind was sustained, and the only mishap of the trip was the crushing of a man's hand while taking the anchor on the bow at St. Michael's, Azores, where they had to put in for coal when about ten days out. She left there on the 16th, and after encountering many heavy gales they arrived at Shelburne on Sunday evening, and proceeded from that port to Yarmouth, where two local brass bands turned out to welcome her. The factory whistles blew and crowds of people assembled on the wharves. The *Boston* is a very handsomely-fitted boat, with everything in the way of modern improvements. Her triple expansion engines worked splendidly coming across. In order to economize fuel the greater part of the run was made with only one boiler. This fine steamer will add greatly to the facilities for

comfortable and convenient travelling between Nova Scotia and Boston as well as increase the avenues for trade, which in spite of a hostile tariff will continue to flourish. We have not the space to spare for a description of the steamer, but will simply state that she is considered first class in every respect and very comfortable. The *Boston* will probably go on the route to morrow.

Disgrace is a terrible thing when it falls upon those in the lower ranks of life, but when a man in Parnell's position, the distinguished leader of the Home Rule party, is covered with dishonor it is many times worse. The revelations of the O'Shea divorce case have shown Mr. Parnell in a very disgraceful light, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to retain the leadership of his party. Many of the Irish Home Rule papers, while condemning the sin, are determined to stand fast by the sinner. They say that Mr. Parnell has served Ireland so long and faithfully that he may well look for generous forbearance in his hour of trial. *United Ireland* praises him for not attempting to shield himself by perjury, and points to the fact that he yielded to temptation to which many great and wise men have succumbed since and before the days of King David, and to the Coercionists' clamor for his dismissal from the Irish leadership it says:—"Ireland's answer is a sharp and decisive 'No.' Irishmen have no mission to judge his private life. Leave that to his conscience and his God, who weighs the temptation with the offence." Mr. Parnell himself is calmly carrying on his plans, and it may be possible that he will be able to defy public opinion and continue to serve his party as heretofore. It is considered probable that so soon as the period required by law shall have elapsed that Mr. Parnell will marry Mrs. O'Shea.

No book of the year has awakened deeper and more wide-spread interest than General Booth's "Darkest England, and the Way Out." It is a scheme for the amelioration of the condition of the poor, whom the author calls "the submerged tenth of the population." The distinctive features of this philanthropic mission are the founding of a city colony for the hungry of the metropolis, who will be given work in labor yards, factories, etc. In this connection will be organized the "Household Salvage Brigade," which will collect food, old clothes, newspapers, etc., to support the refuges and factories of the city colony. A farm colony is the second feature, where the graduates from the city colony will be sent. The Salvage Brigade will be used as a basis of support for this place also. Immense piggeries will be established, and the pigs will supply brush and bacon factories, bone and button works, grease and soap works, etc.; and finally General Booth proposes to found a foreign colony to be supplied from the other two. A tract of land will be secured in South Africa, and the best workers from the home colonies will be sent there. They will be obliged to pay the cost of their transportation by their future labor. After the African colony is established Canada is contemplated as a field for cultivating the transplants from London. The sum of money required by General Booth, in order to put this scheme in operation, is \$5,000,000. Many distinguished people have written encouraging letters to General Booth and promised financial aid. The Queen and the Prince of Wales have approved of it; Cannon Farrar preached a sermon on it in Westminster Abbey and made a powerful appeal in its behalf, and many clergymen and prominent men have signified their approval. The intense interest taken in the book is shown by the fact that the entire issue on October 20th was sold out within three hours, and on the 22nd the list of individual subscribers to its appeal at Salvation headquarters numbered 3,000. The deplorable condition of a large proportion of the population of large cities in England has been set forth in a manner that has touched the hearts of thousands of those who know no want. *The Review of Reviews* says it will be the most epoch-making book that the world has seen for many a long day. It has certainly created a profound sensation, and there seems no reasonable doubt that the scheme can be carried out. There is ample scope for both faith and works in its operation, which, if successful, will be indeed the realization of a glorious dream. It must be borne in mind that the book in which the scheme is unfolded is but the initial step, and that on General Booth himself will come the brunt of management. He, because of his large experience and knowledge of the lowest strata of society, is the man best calculated to deal with this great social problem. The foreign colony will be a rock on which the scheme may split, for there seems to be no disposition, on the part of Canada at least, to receive the class of people in whom General Booth is interested. There are more Pharisees than Good Samaritans among nations, as among individuals, and if we judge by the expressions of opinions in the Canadian Press, Canada has no desire to play the part of the latter. This may be wise in a worldly way, but are we not laying ourselves open to the charge that we fancy that God does not love any other people as he does us?