

# THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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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 his 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.

A Japanese photographer has succeeded in taking photographs in original colors. This will give a new impetus to the art, and make the likenesses much more lifelike than they now appear. Young ladies will by this process obtain photographs which are *fac similes* of that which they see in the mirror.

Brussels is to be supplied with a ship canal, which an English syndicate have agreed to construct and keep in repair for an annual rental of \$360,000. This is the age of railways, but canals are by no means out of date. The Manchester, the Brussels, and the Baltic North Sea Canal are three of the most important now projected.

Most of our readers read of the deplorable suicides committed at Monte Carlo, but few persons realize the number of those whose lives have been brought to an untimely end after having lost their last farthing at the gambling tables. The suicides now aggregate 1,835, and scarce a week goes by without adding one or more unfortunates to their number.

It is asserted that Prof. E. Stone Wiggins, who is employed in the Civil Service at Ottawa, has been officially informed by the head of his department that he must abandon his role as a prophet, or leave the Civil Service. This will probably have the effect of shutting up the prophet, if not, it will possibly end in his being shut up elsewhere.

Professor Virchow, who has recently made some interesting investigations among the school children of Germany, says that the proportion of the pure blondes is found to diminish as we proceed southward. In northern Germany the pure blondes were 43 per cent of the school children examined. In middle Germany there were 32 per cent, while in southern Germany there were but 24 per cent.

In his normal condition, the Mohammedan or the Hindoo can look with comparative complacency upon the religious festivities of the Brahman or the Musselman, but when these festivals happen to fall upon the same day, the flame of religious fanaticism is liable to break out. The Mohammedan year contains but 354 days, so that Mohammedan feasts fall on different days in the ordinary calendar year. Hence it was that the festival of the Hindoo Dasara and that of the Mohammedan Mohurram were simultaneously observed; which, considering the religious excitement which always attends such celebrations, accounts satisfactorily for the troubles which have recently arisen between the two races inhabiting the North West Provinces of India.

One-eighth of the people of Berlin are now receiving public charity. The city has a population of 1,200,000 inhabitants, of whom 150,000 are regular recipients of city aid. Ten per cent of the population live in cellars, and twenty-five per cent in crowded apartments. Germany's capital may have its attractions to those who have gold to spend, but to the industrious toiler it offers no allurements.

New industries are daily springing up in different sections of the globe. A company has been formed in Mexico to work up the cactus plant. The oil is to be used for lubricating purposes, the fibre for cordage, the leaf for paper, and the fruit for eating. The fruit is so juicy that it often takes the place of water for man and beast; and some years ago, when the drought came over San Luis Potosi, thousands of cattle were saved by eating the fruit.

The intimation that the British Government were framing a measure to provide four National or Provincial Governments for Ireland, has caused a flutter among the more timid Conservatives and Unionists. Had such a measure been introduced twenty years ago, the present Irish agitation would not have been recorded; as it is, it is doubtful whether anything short of a Central Irish Parliament will receive the support of Parnell and his followers.

At length Tamai, the last stronghold of the desert freebooter, the wily Osman Digma, has been captured; and this, not through the process of a British force armed with British bayonets, but by the native tribes of the Red Sea littoral, who but a few months since regarded Osman as invincible. Osman's forces are now dispersed, and he himself has made good his retreat to Khartoum. With the united co-operation of the friendly tribes, the Soudan question may soon be satisfactorily settled.

It is said that 75 per cent of our population suffer from decayed or imperfect teeth, and the fact that one London firm annually disposes of 10,000,000 artificial-teeth, is proof positive that the care of teeth is not yet fully understood by the public. Many dental surgeons are of the opinion that the mischief arises from the erroneous notion that children's first teeth require no attention; whereas the fact is, if these be attended to or removed at the proper time, they will invariably be replaced by strong and durable successors. Parents should not neglect to bear this in mind.

London is just now infested with foot-pads, who in broad daylight, and in public thoroughfares, constantly commit robberies, which for boldness and audacity have seldom been equalled. These ruffians form themselves into bands, and congregate near the heads of alleys, into which, when no policeman is about, they hustle the foot passenger, and after having relieved him of his watch and purse in less time than it takes to tell of it, they make good their escape, leaving the bewildered victim stunned at the suddenness of the attack. Policemen in plain clothing are now on the lookout for these London highwaymen.

The Anarchist plot to destroy Vienna on the 4th of October, appears to have been carefully planned, though fortunately not successfully carried out. Arrangements had been made to fire the city in four distinct quarters, and then, while the police and citizens were endeavoring to extinguish the flames, the diabolical dynamiters were to blow up the palace and the great public buildings. The details of the discovery of the plot disclosed the fact that those engaged in it were drawn from all nationalities, which would indicate that the soldiers who war against society under the red banner are not sufficiently numerous in any one nationality to organize for any very extensive operations.

Fifteen persons lost their lives from an accident on the St. Paul Railway, in Wisconsin. An express train ran through an open switch and plunged into a sand hill. Both ends of the passenger car were telescoped, so that egress by the doors became impossible. For some unaccountable reason the windows could not be raised, and when the car caught fire, the passengers were unable to make good their escape, all perishing in the flames. Had an axe or a saw been obtained, the passengers might have saved themselves, but railway authorities seldom provide against eventualities. Some day, these soulless corporations will be taught a lesson that will make it imperative on them to take ordinary precautions against danger.

When a lecturer of literary distinction like Justin McCarthy refers to a matter of history, he is supposed to be conversant with the facts, and yet when Mr. McCarthy was speaking of Lord Cornwallis, he referred to his defence of Yorktown as an ignominious failure. The circumstances of that famous siege are so well known that it seems hardly necessary to state that Lord Cornwallis and his ill-armed, badly provisioned garrison were beleaguered by a force of French and Continental troops which, according to American historians, outnumbered the garrison two to one, and which impartial critics state was four to five times greater than that of the defenders. The failure to hold the earthworks against such odds can scarce be regarded as ignominious.